MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 AUGUST 1981

Israel

Begin on Release of Aircraft, Other Subjects--Jerusalem radio quoted Prime Minister Menahem Begin as saying on 16 August that U.S. President Ronald Reagan would shortly announce the release of the 14 F-16's and 2 F-15's whose delivery to Israel had been suspended by the United States. However, while the newspaper MA'ARIV reported that Israel had agreed to avoid using U.S. aircraft for offensive purposes, Prime Minister Begin denied this, saying Israel has "never heard" of any such demand by the United States and has no reason to offer to refrain from using U.S.-supplied aircraft in attack missions since "we never attack."

Begin also criticized Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's proposed formula for a Middle East peace agreement, asserting that the press was mistaken in interpreting Fahd's proposals to mean Saudi Arabia is now prepared to recognize Israel and denying that the Saudi suggestions should be termed a peace initiative. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Begin stressed that Israel would like to know whether U.S. special envoy Philip Habib has halted his mission or whether he will continue to deal with the as yet unsolved problem of the Syrian SAM missiles in Lebanon.

Palestinian Sabotage Operation--The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio announced on 14 August that the Palestinian resistance blew up an Israeli arms factory. However, monitored Israeli media have not mentioned the incident.

PLO

In remarks reported over the weekend by the Voice of Palestine, Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf both stressed the likelihood of a new Israeli attack on Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon. The radio reported that Fatah Deputy Commander in Chief Khalil al-Wazir warned against Israeli assassination attempts on Palestinian leaders, and it also quoted a Palestinian newspaper as excoriating the Arab states for failing to respond to Israel's air attack on Palestinian buildings in Beirut last month.

Lebanon

Military Situation--Beirut radio reported renewed clashes in the capital over the weekend. Gunfire disrupted traffic between eastern and western Beirut and caused casualties in the commercial area, the radio said and reported that Arab deterrent forces intervened to stop fighting in a southern suburb between the Shi'ite Amal movement and communists. According to the Voice of Palestine, Palestinian antiaircraft batteries fired at Israeli planes overflying Beirut and the south on 16 August. Jerusalem radio quoted border strip Christian militia sources as reporting that the Palestinians violated the cease-fire by shelling a Christian village on 15 August. Maj Sa'd Haddad's militia did not return the fire, the radio said.

Al-Wazzan Gulf Tour--Beirut radio reported on 17 August that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has begun a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Egypt

In its press review for 17 August, Cairo radio says AL-AHRAM carried a report on the interview given by President Anwar as-Sadat to the SUNDAY TIMES. In the interview, as-Sadat said that Egypt is of greater strategic importance in the Middle East than Israel because of its location and because it is capable of helping any Arab country during an emergency, something Israel cannot do. The radio also cited as-Sadat as saying that Egypt wants the United States to give it only those arms necessary to protect itself and Saudi Arabia, should the need arise.

Iran

Egyptian Offer to Bani-Sadr--Tehran radio cited the Iranian Foreign Ministry as stating that Egyptian President as-Sadat has sent officials to Paris bearing an offer of political asylum in Egypt to former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. According to AFP, citing a FRANCE-SOIR interview with Bani-Sadr, the former president denied he had accepted an invitation from as-Sadat to live in Egypt and described reports of the offer as a lie put out by PARS. Monitored Egyptian media have not been observed to mention the offer of asylum to Bani-Sadr.

Gunboat Seizure--AFP reported that the "Iranian liberation forces" managed to hijack only one of the three new French-made gunboats that were en route to the Iranian Government. According to the opposition group, the hijacked vessel is now in international waters and no longer in Morocco, as earlier stated by a group spokesman in a phone call to AFP. In a communique quoting the group's leader, Gen Bahram Aryana, the sized boat is said to have been designated the seat of the national government of Iran. An undated Iranian Foreign Ministry statement on the hijacking, carried by Tehran radio, claims CIA involvement in the incident can be clearly seen since an Iranian naval vessel has been stolen and placed at the disposal of the pro-American Government of Morocco. In a warning to the U.S. Government, the statement says such acts will not go unanswered.

Domestic Security--Tehran radio carried numerous reports over the weekend on arrests in various cities of a total of 429 leftists, including members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq and Peykar. The radio also reported the execution of 15 leftists and 26 narcotics smugglers.

Teheran radio reported that on 15 August the home of Supreme Court President Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili was attacked by two motorcyclists armed with guns and handgrenades. The assailants were arrested and no casualties were reported. The radio also said that two clergymen were assassinated in Sanandaj and Babol and that another was wounded in Masjeo-e Soleyman on 16 August. Citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, AFP said that a revolution guards leader in Bandar-e 'Arbas was shot dead by "terrorists." According to a revolution guards spokesman cited by Tehran radio, revolution guards killed 42 Peshmerga and counterrevolutionaries in the course of operations in six Kurdish villages in the Marivan region.

Afghanistan

In a speech to PDPA activists in the armed forces, President Babrak Karmali called on army units to go over to the offensive in the struggle against counterrevolutionaries. He urged forces defending the Sawr Revolution to intensify and expand their activities in cooperation with party organs, the State Information Service and the police.

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SALAH KHALAF SPEAKS ON CONFRONTATION OF ISRAEL

JN151942 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Address by Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre of Abu Iyad, at rally organized by Palestinian youth and cubs establishment in Burj al-Barajinah in Beirut on 15 August--recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sisters; sons and daughters: At this stage I speak this week in the Burj al-Barajinah camp. This place may have many reasons that may allow one to speak frankly to his brothers and sisters, particularly at their graduation.

We are now passing through a stage that might be the most difficult of all the stages we have passed. After the Israeli planes, gunboats and warships came and committed their aggressions against our Lebanese-Palestinian people in the south, Beirut and Burj al-Barajinah, we cried out loud to our Arab nation but did not hear of a single demonstration staged in any Arab capital in support of the Lebanese-Palestinian people and their revolutionaries. I reiterate: Not a single demonstration was staged. Whereas if one victim falls in Israel, if one woman or child falls in Israel, the entire world raises its voice in condemnation and begins to describe the Palestinians as terrorists. Every newspaper in existence has written and is writing about Palestinian terrorists.

However, this world public opinion is completely silent over the hundreds of victims who have fallen in the aggression. We do not hear a single word about the children, women, men and old people who fell victims to this aggression. Why? Because actually there is nothing called Arab oil. I say that those who have oil do not want to use it, not even by reducing production. After today, we cannot see how a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front could refuse to meet for 7 months while we were going from one Arab capital to another. We cannot get the front to meet. Why? Are there any differences over land? Are there any differences in (?tactics)?

The first step in confronting the next plot is to have a minimum solid Arab stand based on the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. We explained in detail that this front should be established and Iraq should be with it in order for us to be able to confront the big conspiracy.

Some are talking about a settlement. How can this settlement be faced? Is it by having a divided steadfastness front? Let us talk about the fluid Arab stand. How can this stand become strong and what will the results be if the front most capable of being the driving force behind the Steadffastness and Confrontation Front cannot meet and we cannot bring it together. One should not conceal the facts, because these facts concern us all. Before talking about the reactionary stand, I should talk about the patriotic and progressive stand. There should be a stand so that one can speak frankly about the Arab nation. [Words indistinct] the unity between Syria and Iraq. How long will this deteriorating state of affairs continue? Why were attempts made to interfere in the Palestinian revolution and to break it down? There are many rumors.

Brothers, I assert to you that Israel will soon launch a war against us through this new criminal, Sharon. You all know that when the cease-fire came in force, Israel had three conditions: The first condition, that there should be 14,000 UN soldiers to prevent the Palestinian-Lebanese artillery from coming near the northern region [of Israel]; the second condition, that there should be reinforcements of the Lebanese Army deployed in the other parts of Lebanon. The third condition is also important: That we should not bring any weapons from any Arab country or the Soviet Union for the Palestinian revolution. These are the three conditions which were set by Israel.

We have now begun the political battle by questioning these conditions. Of course, these conditions cannot be implemented. If the Lebanese Government wants to implement them, this is of no concern to us. The basic issue is increasing the area of operation of 14,000 UNIFIL soldiers. This means the occupation of the south. It means liquidation of the eruption of a new battle against us. It will stop arms from coming to us from any Arab country to stop Israel from hitting Beirut and any place in the south. How can we face this conspiracy?

First, we should face it with united and solid Palestinian ranks--national unity. I tell [words indistinct] in Burj al-Barajinah and all my brothers in the organization: It is high time to make our unity stronger than it is. Our unity is strong but we want it to be stronger. In order to be able to confront the conspiracy, we should [words indistinct]. We cried out last time and said we want a strong national unity among the Amal Movement, the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian resistance. Each one of us is responsible for striking with an iron fist at those opportunists who harm the revolution and its steadfastness. No matter what happens and no matter what we hear from time to time being said about us here and there, we should strengthen our unity with the Lebanese National Movement. Our unity with the Amal Movement and the National Movement should be a basic one so as to be able to confront this conspiracy.

Furthermore, I say even if we cannot have unity and relations with the steadfastness front, we should support this front with all our potential in order to be able, through it, to face this big plot and be able to talk to all the Arabs from a position of strength.

Moreover, we must not forget and should not be lost between the Soviet Union and the United States, between U.S. imperialism and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union and the Socialist bloc are our friends. We must improve our relations with them. We must use this relationship in a sound manner. We must transform this relationship into a strategic one in order to be able to reply to these terrorist Americans [words indistinct] who are trying to strike at our people and our brothers in the [words indistinct].

Finally, I should like to tell our cubs and guides: Our revolution is a [word indistinct]. It grew its teeth from poverty and hunger. We are a revolution that arose after 18 years of suffering and after more than 60 years of the suffering of our fathers and forefathers. I tell you: You are the ones who represent the slogan of the revolution, which says it is an invincible revolution. We must not be defeated. You are the new generation on which all hopes are pinned. You are the symbol of the continuation of this revolution. We tell America, Israel and Begin: With these cubs and guides, we defy you to uproot one individual from this revolution. With these cubs and guides, the revolution will continue. It is a revolution until victory. It is a revolution until victory.

SALAH KHALAF INTERVIEWED ON U.S. ANTI-PLO PLANS

LD170920 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Aug (KUNA)--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the second strongman of the largest of the Palestinian fedayeen groups, Fatah, has again accused the United States of working to "liquidate" the PLO and has expressed his belief that Israel will shortly strike at the Palestinian fedayeen.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published here today, Khalaf said that there is a tendency for the United States to liquidate the PLO by cornering America's Arab friends and then asking them to persuade the PLO to accept the Israeli conditions for a cease-fire--something which will create a conflict between the Arab position of cooperation with the United States and the PLO position, thus giving Israel a pretext for aggression, particularly as America's Arab friends will not be in a position then to exert new pressures for a cease-fire.

Khalaf asserted that Israel has failed to achieve its objectives from its land, sea and air attacks against the Palestinian fedayeen and their leftist Lebanese allies in southern Lebanon last month, and added that "a second round is very close. This is no prediction. The blow this time will be much harder."

Khalaf said he expects Israel to invade southern Lebanon or to wage a war of annihilation against the Palestinian fedayeen and their leftist Lebanese allies, which will include limited-scale operations, strikes against cities and assassinations. He recalled in this respect a statement attributed to the director of Israeli intelligence and published recently by the HERALD TRIBUNE to the effect that Israel will continue with its operations against Lebanese civilians until they rebel against the Palestinians and expel them.

Khalaf rejected America's claims that it is working to end centers of tension in the Middle East as part of the second current stage of the Camp David operation. He said that "any analysis which fails to take the organic relation between Israel and the United States into consideration is illogical. Israel always has additional room for action, called the right to security, and Israel uses this pretext any time it chooses. Believe me," he said, "the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the Syrian missile crisis and, finally, the recent Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon were all American decisions."

On Philip Habib's upcoming mission, Khalaf said its purpose will be to put an end to the Lebanese crisis along the American and Israeli lines: the destruction of the Palestine revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and all the national Lebanese forces. Afterward, the turn of dealing with a solution will come. I am confident that they will first submit their solution to Syria and will exert pressure on it and then on us."

As for the size of the strikes, he said, we expect them to be as big as the American decision: From complete annihilation to complete invasion, as I have already said.

"For this reason," Khalaf added, "I say that a complete and integral plan was there through Philip Habib and it existed even before the war [in southern Lebanon]. America offers two options, with no third option, to Syria and the PLO: Either join the settlement or face liquidation. Syria is in Lebanon just as the PLO is. The situation and its options can thus be viewed through the Lebanese crisis, in which Syria and the PLO are interested parties. I believe this should be the pivot of our basic thinking in the coming stage."

Salah Khalaf disclosed that Syria has permitted the Palestinian fedayeen to carry out anti-Israeli operations from the Golan Heights, but he complained that Jordan is still opposed to fedayeen operations being launched against Israeli targets from Jordanian territory. He said: "Syria has permitted us to carry out operations from the Golan Heights, and it is up to us to decide on the type, timing and size of such operations without giving any details, because the details are secret."

"As for the Jordanian front," Khalaf said, "when we are given permission, we will operate from there. Unfortunately, many of our patrols are being arrested by the Jordanian Army and our strugglers are being placed in Jordanian prisons. Yet despite all this and all obstacles on numerous occasions we infiltrate and strike. Whether the Jordanian leaders agree or not, these obstacles unfortunately help to protect Israel." Khalaf said that King Husayn of Jordan has "rejected" a request by Libya's second strongman, Maj 'Ali as-Salam Jallud, that Palestinian fedayeen be permitted to operate from Jordan against Israel for fear of an Israeli reprisal.

Khalaf accused Israeli intelligence of having been behind the assassination attempt on the life of Fatah Revolutionary Council Member Muhammad Dawud 'Awdah--Abu Dawud--in Warsaw recently.

He said: "I am confident that Israel was behind the operation because I do not believe any Palestinian or Arab would try to assassinate such a struggler with such an honorable history."

FATAH OFFICIAL VIEWS ISRAELI PLANS, FRENCH VISITS

JN160913 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Aug (SANA)--Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, has called on the Arabs to extend further material and political aid to the PLO. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, published today, Al-Hasan warned that the Israeli enemy's aim after swallowing up the West Bank is to expand eastward across Jordan in order to be at the gates of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The Fatah Central Committee member appealed to Saudi Arabia and Algeria not to receive French President Mitterrand unless France abrogates its anti-Arab legislation on the boycott of Israel and unless France recognizes the PLO.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS

NC151554 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1445 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received a solidarity cable from the Politbureau of the Egyptian Communist Party. The cable said that the Israeli brutal raids against the Palestinian and Lebanese people clearly expose the true nature of so-called peace which the United States, Israel and As-Sadat's regime are trying to impose on the Arab region. The cable also expressed the solidarity of the Egyptian masses with the Palestinian and Lebanese people in their confrontation and the challenges posed by imperialism, Zionism and As-Sadat's regime.

VOP MESSAGE TO 'KINFOLK' IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

JN151129 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Our kinfolk in the occupied homeland: The scheme made public by Zionist war minister Ari'el Sharon is the beginning of a new battle between the occupation authorities and the various factions of our people inside the occupied homeland. Our kinfolk, this is your second battle within the framework of foiling the autonomy rule. Enthusiastic about his new post, General Sharon will act against anything that is Palestinian in order to impose this conspiracy after Weizman and terrorist Begin failed in this field.

We know that there are some agents and traitors of the villages' leagues who are encouraging those like Sharon to formulate his schemes against the Palestinian people, their national leadership and their institutions in the occupied homeland. Sharon, however, is betting on a losing horse because our people have chosen their representatives and their leaders have faced more serious and fiercer conspiracies than Sharon's fragile schemes. Our people have succeeded in foiling them all and in making the revolution stronger and more cohesive in the political and military fields.

Our kinfolk, while we are confronting the new battle we must be alert and cautious to the moves of the agents and traitors, whom we warn against continuing on the road to treason and harming the people's will. The revolution is not a transient one and will destroy all the small pebbles that may be scattered by the enemy generals on the path of our people's struggle.

VOP SAYS PALESTINIANS REJECT NEW SHARON POLICY

NC141513 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Palestinian mayors and chairmen of the local councils, popular organizations and federations have rejected the new policy which Zionist war minister Ari'el Sharon has announced on dealings with the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. What draws attention is the fact that this Palestinian rejection of the new Zionist policy was rapid and total and that it expressed the views of the Palestinian popular sectors in the areas that were occupied in 1967 and 1948.

A few hours after Sharon announced his policy, Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah reminded the Zionist officials that the Palestinian mayors carry out their duties toward their people, who elected them to assume their responsibilities. Ash-Shak'ah referred to the role of Sharon--the author of the new policy--in the policy of Zionist settlement, which is the most prominent feature of the racist policy against our people and land. In the land which was occupied in 1948, spokesman for the local Arab councils Brother Muhammad Zaydan said that the Palestinians consider the Israeli Army as an army of occupation and that the Palestinians are defending their territory. The Palestinian papers have viewed Sharon's new plan as an attempt to decorate the face of occupation and as no more than dust in the eyes and said that it will not change anything in the reality of occupation.

The answer of our people in the occupied homeland, in such national unanimity, undoubtedly stems from their awareness of the danger of Sharon's plan to their future life and their territory, as well as their realization that these theatrics are a new attempt to consecrate the Zionist occupation of our territory and to suppress the voices that criticize the Zionists' repressive policy against our people and that emphasize that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. The best proof of this policy is the new terrorist measures, which accompanied Sharon's declaration, against a number of Palestinian personalities who criticize the occupation and express their view in the PLO. Yesterday the enemy's authorities once again imposed restrictions on the movements of a number of the Palestinian press cadres in the city of Ramallah. The persons involved are Bashir al-Barghuthi, Ma'mun as-Sayyid and Akram Haniyyah. The authorities prevented them from going to their press offices in occupied Arab Jerusalem.

In the same vein, the enemy's authorities have banned the mayors, particularly those who reaffirm their support for the PLO, from making any statements or declarations. The authorities have also adopted new oppressive measures against Palestinian teachers.

General Sharon, who is now trying to appear a meek lamb through his new alleged policy, is the staunchest enemy of our Palestinian people. His terrorist record is known. Sharon is the author of the plan to empty the Palestinian territory of its inhabitants, to bring in settlers and to establish new settlements. Sharon was among the first to inflict collective savage penalties against our people in the occupied Gaza Strip. Sharon is also the author of the allegation that the Palestinian territory is the historical land of Israel and that the homeland of the Palestinians is outside Palestine.

Brothers, a glance at Sharon's plan--which is being given much propaganda--will confirm the political meaning of the policy which Sharon is advocating. Following the enemy's failure to implement the autonomy plan--it was rejected by our Palestinian people--it is clear that the enemy's government is resorting to a new method to implement this conspiratorial plan. The Zionist officials, who are deeply saddened by the PLO's political and military victory in the recent Palestinian-Israeli war and who are terrified by the growing role of the PLO in the circles of world public opinion, have come out with their new plans hoping to implement their policy.

What remains for us to say is that the bright Palestinian factor, represented by the PLO, our people's rejection of these new plans and the escalation of the struggle against the occupation and all its plans, constitutes the most important guarantee and only way to force the enemy to recognize the rights of our Palestinian people, which will lead to victory and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their land under the leadership of their only legitimate representative, the PLO.

LEBANESE NATIONALISTS' STATEMENT ON ACCORD, ARMY

NC151208 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement has emphasized that it will not participate in any dialogue on the national accord and political solution before making sure that the Israeli penetration of Lebanon on all the political, military and security levels has been liquidated.

In a statement issued by its Central Political Council, the National Movement considers the question about the dealings of the Lebanese Front with the Zionist enemy to be still pending, without a solution. The movement reaffirms that the severance of this relationship, in work and in deed, is the only approach for tackling the Lebanese crisis.

The Lebanese National Movement announced its rejection of the U.S. plan concerning the Lebanese situation, in the light of what has been published about it and what has been leaked about its aims. The movement also rejected the official Lebanese working paper, which is a practical translation of the plan.

Concerning the question of the army, the National Movement pointed out that top priority must be given to the rebuilding of the army on a national basis, so as to make it possible to speak about its armament. The movement said in this regard that it rejects any armament plan that would lead to the wasting of public funds to strengthen any army that is nationally rejected.

YAMANI INTERVIEW ON PETROLEUM PRICES, PRODUCTION

LD141242 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0922 GMT 14 Aug 81

["Text" of interview given to SPA by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs; date not given]

[Text] At-Ta'if, 14 Aug (SPA)--Question: Mr Minister, campaigns have recently been waged against Saudi Arabic claiming that our country is responsible, through its huge output, for the petroleum surplus and that it has thus harmed OPEC and the Arab cause. What is Your Excellency's view on the matter?

Answer: Some of these campaigns are tendentious, while others are caused by marketing problems and loss of revenue and by ignorance of some known facts in the petroleum industry. Facts will become clear in the next 2 years when Saudi production drops to lower averages and the surplus remains more or less the same as it is now.

Question: Mr Minister, if Saudi production is not the cause of the surplus, then what is?

Answer: The cause is the huge drop in the consumption of petroleum, the industrial countries turning to alternative sources of energy--most importantly, coal--and they are spending thousands of millions for that purpose and reducing the consumption of petroleum. It suffices to know that 2 years ago the OPEC countries as a group produced more than 31 million barrels per day; however, the shrinking demand for petroleum, for the reasons I have already explained, cut back OPEC's production to less than 24 million barrels per day. Next year this rate will once again drop--to less than 22 millions barrels per day. The difference between 31 and 24 is the difference caused by the drop in demand and not by Saudi production.

Question: Mr Minister, why the sharp drop in demand?

Answer: It is caused by the subsequent rises in the prices of oil which made investments an alternative and the reduction of consumption a profitable commercial proposition. We, by our own doing, by running after extra income--have created this problem which we are shouting about and which pains us, and then we try to level the blame against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Question: Mr Minister, why did Saudi Arabia not restrain the rise in prices?

Answer: Our posture regarding prices is known. In the past it used to be to reduce the burden on the poor peoples and not to disrupt the world economy, and recently it has been to protect OPEC from the situation in which it finds itself. We have always tried to unify our prices with the prices of others, raising them to their level. But the following day they would raise them to higher levels, and thus we have reached where we are now. Had it not been for our sensible postures, the price would have been higher than it is now and the problem would have been a tragedy, a terrible catastrophe.

Question: Mr Minister, but why this difference in production rates and why has the production of some of the OPEC countries dropped to less than half?

Answer: The reason is that they charge higher prices than Saudi Arabia. This makes it difficult for many companies to bear the heavy losses they would sustain if they bought from them, especially when spot market prices have at times dropped to levels lower than even the Saudi price.

Question: But why is the Saudi price less than that of the others?

Answer: The question ought to have been: Why has the price of others risen above the Saudi price? The Bali conference of OPEC decided that the benchmark price would be $32 dollars per barrel, but that any member state could raise its price to a maximum of $36 dollars per barrel, with slight differences for the prices of the oil of North Africa where the ceiling would not exceed $41. Saudi Arabia limited itself to the official price while others reached the ceiling. Hence the responsibility for the prices is their concern and not that of OPEC as an organization.

Question: Mr Minister, it is said that the rise in Saudi production has enabled the industrial states to amass oil in storage and has weakened OPEC and the Arab cause.

Answer: This is the statement of an ignorant or tendentious person. Anybody who knows even a little about the petroleum industry knows very well that storage operations were halted this year and that the companies began to draw on their stored oil. They would lose if they kept it in storage. This disturbed the International Energy Agency and it tried to no avail to stop the depletion of stored oil. The current stocks were amassed in 1979 and 1980 when all the OPEC countries were producing to utmost capacity except Saudi Arabia, which was producing at less than capacity. What has weakened OPEC is the drop in demand as a result of the sharp increases in prices. The weakness will be removed only by reducing the average schedule of prices and freezing them for a long period until demand has revived.

Question: Mr Minister, what in your view will lead to the removal of the differences in production and to the reduction of Saudi production?

Answer: We are not pleased by this higher rate of production. We are troubled and pained by it and do it because it serves our interests and the interests of OPEC, the Arab world and the world as a whole. It is the sole means of unifying the price, and the unification of the price is the sole means of reducing Saudi production. Merely by realizing this our production will drop by the effect of market sources to a level much less than what it is now.

Question: Mr Minister, do you expect the forthcoming OPEC conference to succeed?

Answer: Yes, in the unification of the price. But there are 2 years in front of OPEC during which it will face immense difficulties. Saudi Arabia will prove, as it always has done, that what it is doing now is giving a dose of bitter but beneficial medicine and that what it does tomorrow will be the strong pillar of OPEC.

BAHRAIN

PLO'S AL-WAZIR MAKES STATEMENTS DURING VISIT

14 Aug Press Conference

JN142147 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2035 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Manama, 14 Aug (GNA)--Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has described the Saudi proposal submitted last week by His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, as a very important proposal because it represents an open condemnation of the United States because of its support for the Zionist enemy. He said: Even though there might be some Palestinian voices which came up with certain criticisms, they do not represent the totality of the Palestinian resolution to be issued soon.

At a press conference he held in Manama this evening, Abu Jihad called on the Arab nation to understand the gravity of the Zionist aggression, which seeks to impose its domination on the region. He said: The will of the Zionist enemy must be confronted by a unified Arab will which can say "absolutely no." He added: The Palestinian revolution is confronting this aggression these days. It is the dam that stands against the spread of the Zionist flood. The Arab nation must offer all it can to support the capabilities of the Palestinian resistance against aggression.

On the European initiative on the Middle East, Khalil al-Wazir stressed that there is a reaction of the Venice declaration. This is due to U.S. pressure on the European group, particularly concerning the establishment of the Palestinian state. The weak Arab stand made Europe step forward in this matter because the European people no longer hear a single Arab voice which expresses support for Palestinian rights.

He criticized the French role in this respect. He said: The French stand played an effective role in making the Luxembourg conference hesitant to adopt a candid step. He called on the French Government to declare a frank stand with the oppressed Palestinians who are the victims of Zionist aggression, just like the Europeans were when they were victims of Nazi aggression.

On the call by Brzezinski, Carter's adviser, on the new U.S. administration to negotiate with the PLO Khalil al-Wazir said: This fact must be made crystal clear for world public opinion, the U.S. administration and the European administrations, because Brzezinski, who once said "bye bye PLO," recently recognized [words indistinct] and its efforts.

Predeparture Statements

NC160825 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] In Aden, Brother Abu Jihad [Khalid al-Wazir] deputy commander in chief and Fatah Central Committee member, will hold talks with PDRY officials toady on the honorable battles waged by the joint forces during the sixth Palestinian-Israeli war and the possible developments in light of the continued Zionist threats. Brother Abu Jihad and the accompanying delegation arrived in Aden yesterday. He was met by Brother 'Ali 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party; Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, communications minister; and Brother 'Abbas Zaki, PLO representative in the PDRY.

In a statement before leaving Manama, Brother Abu Jihad said that the PLO insists that the discussions at the upcoming Arab summit conference should not be confined to the Lebanese problem, but that the conference should study the question of adopting a unified strategy to confront Israel.

He pointed out that by asking for the convocation of an Arab summit conference the Lebanese Government aims at finding an Arab cover for the U.S. plan, which calls for the expansion of the sphere of the UN forces' control in southern Lebanon. In this context, Abu Jihad said that the Lebanese Government is participating in the new anti-PLO U.S. plan.

In connection with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's plan to resolve the Middle East crisis, Brother Abu Jihad said that the PLO will announce its view on this matter after studying the reasons that prompted Prince Fahd to put forward his plan.

KUWAIT

PAPER CRITICIZES REAGAN NUETRON BOMB DECISION

GF151219 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Aug 81 p 6

[Editorial by Mustafa Abu Libdah: "The Neutron Decision"]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan's unilateral decision to start producing the neutron bomb has taken from Europe what little freedom of political decision it had. Washington's decision to undermine the political independence of its European allies was the climax of deliberate American efforts to end the economic independence of Europe and Japan. The very day the White House announced its decision about the neutron bomb the American dollar jumped to its highest rate for 23 years.

Leaders of Western industrial states had complained to President Reagan during the Ottawa summit last month about the economic assaults, by way of interest and dollar rates, against them by the U.S. administration. Reagan's reply was that the matter was related to American internal policy and every U.S. state had the right to take any financial and monetary steps if wanted.

Perhaps Reagan told U.S. allies that producing the neutron bomb was a purely internal matter when he made the announcement several days ago.

The neutron bomb decision will also have an adverse effect on the NATO pact and the "flexible response" tactics. Unless Europe goes along with the American decisions, it will be in a weakened position and the NATO pact would succumb to the Warsaw Pact.

However, America and Russia are balanced strategically, as the Soviet Union had already started research on the neutron weapon in 1952. The confrontation will be escalated without any advantage to either side.

Two weeks ago Europe washed its hands over the Middle East and gave up any morale or other support of the Arabs. There is a likelihood that OPEC will go the way of Europe and lose its independence. Then the position of oil as a weapon or even as a commodity will be in jeopardy. It is therefore important that OPEC closes its ranks.

MINISTER MEETS WITH VISITING SOVIET OFFICIAL

LD161554 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1414 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Aug (KUNA)--A Soviet official who is visiting Kuwait had talks today at the Foreign Ministry. A Kuwaiti official said the talks concerned widening the scope of cooperation between the two countries.

The official, Anatoliy Filev, counselor of the Near Eastern Countries Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, met with the acting deputy foreign minister, Faysal al-Mutawwa'.

Mr al-Mutawwa' said that he discussed with Filev, whose official visit to Kuwait began yesterday, the agenda of the coming UN General Assembly meeting, the arms race and the limitation of destructive weapons.

The talks also included the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan. The Soviet visitor was told that Kuwait rejects the principle of the occupation of one country by the forces of another.

Filev was also told of Kuwait's belief that the Indian Ocean should be kept free of international disputes; Kuwait lies on one side of the Indian Ocean, and any disputes there would reflect on the Arabian Gulf area.

JORDANIANS SENTENCED FOR BOMBINGS IN KUWAIT

LD151254 Kuwait KUNA in English 1152 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Aug (KUNA)--State Security Court Saturday sentenced seven Jordanians to life imprisonment after finding them guilty on charges of planting bombs and undermining an Iranian shipping company in Kuwait this year.

Four of these convicts were sentenced in absentia because they fled the country after planting five bombs in various parts of Kuwait last June. Five others accused in the two cases were released for lack of evidence on their involvement while two more were sentenced to two and seven years respectively.

One person died in the explosion which took place at the Ariana Shipping Company last March while the five bomb explosions caused only light material damage.

SECURITY FORCES REPORTEDLY ARREST 4 IRANIANS

LD160735 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Aug (KUNA)--Kuwait's AL-WATAN said today that the Kuwaiti security authorities have discovered an arms cache in one of Kuwait's suburbs and that four Iranians who appear to be involved in this incident have been arrested. The paper, which attributed this report to informed sources, gave no other details.

Report Denied

LD161247 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1218 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Aug (KUNA)--The Kuwaiti Ministry of the Interior today denied the report published by a local newspaper about the discovery of an arms cache in one of Kuwait's suburbs by the security authorities and the arrest of four Iranians involved in the incident. A spokesman for the Ministry said the report is without foundation and that nothing of the kind took place. He asked the newspapers to check such rumors which are aimed at spreading confusion and anxiety.

OMAN

PASSENGERS OF IRANIAN PLANE RELEASED; PILOTS HELD

LD141430 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] The royal Oman police have announced that during an interrogation of passengers of the hijacked naval aircraft all of them expressed the wish to return to Tehran. It was also clear they were all members of the Iranian Navy. One of them had his wife and son with him on the regular flight from Bandar 'Abbas to Tehran, but the two pilots flew the aircraft to Muscat instead.

Contact was made between the Governments of Oman and Iran, and the necessary measures have been taken to use another Iranian aircraft with a new crew to return the hijacked passengers together with a navigator, who expressed the wish to return to Tehran with the hijacked passengers.

The royal Oman police are still holding for further interrogation the two Iranian pilots who hijacked the aircraft, in view of their penetration of Omani airspace and landing at Sib International Airport without permission from the authorities concerned.

QATAR

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH GHANA

JN150917 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Doha, 15 Aug (QNA)--The Government of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of Ghana have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at ambassadorial level.

A statement issued by the Qatari Foreign Ministry today mentions that this decision has been taken out of the two countries' desire to strengthen bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR'S ATH-THAWR VISITS, DELIVERS MESSAGE TO KING

LD151632 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 15 Aug (SPA)--YAR Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr left At-Ta'if this afternoon at the end of a few hours visit, during which he delivered a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz.

In a statement to SPA, Ath-Thawr said that the message he delivered today was connected with the devlopment, bolstering and creation of the strongest possible bridges of relations between the two sisterly states. The message also deals with serious and constant consultations on all matters of interest to the two fraternal peoples and countries.

Ath-Thawr said that his visit falls within the framework of constant coordination and consultation between the two countries and the two leaderships, headed by King Khalid and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in all matters of common interest to the Arab and Islamic nation and the exchange of views on the most important Arab issues, particularly the Palestine question and its developments.

The views of both sides on Arab and international issues of interest to our nation and country stem from one source and quite often reach a degree of complete agreement, particularly on the basic issues and those of the Arab world.

Speaking about his meeting with Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Ath-Thawr said that they reviewed matters of coordination and the steps taken so far with regard to the projects being implemented within the framework of coordinated actions between the Kingdom and YAR, which had been approved during the last meeting of the Saudi-Yemeni coordination council, held recently in Saudi Arabia.

Referring to the principles contained in the recent statements by Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Ath-Thawr said that they constitute positive steps toward finding a just, natural and logical solution for the Arab cause and the Palestinian question. He said these were responsible and mature proposals and principles and should be given the attention they deserve particularly as they come from a country and leaders who make positive and effective contributions toward reaching the just solution sought by the Arab and Islamic nations for the principal cause of the Palestine people.

KUWAIT'S HUSAYN SAID TO SUPPORT FAHD'S PROPOSALS

LD162212 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, minister of state for Cabinet affairs of Kuwait, has confirmed his country's support for the proposals of His Highness Prince Fahd, crown prince and deputy prime minister, in connection with finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, considering them to be a crystallization of the Arab stand toward the great Arab cause.

In a statement published in Tunis today, he expressed his hope that the whole world would realize that there is a unified Arab stand toward the Arab cause and would seize the opportunity to respond to the Arab nation in order to find a lasting and just solution to the Middle East problem, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the Palestinians' return to their homes. He noted that this would result in the solution of other problems concerning Lebanon, the Euro-Arab dialogue and problems of interest to the Middle East and the world.

Husayn referred to Gulf security, affirming that the main danger posed to the area stems from Israel's existence and its policy. The Kuwaiti minister of state added that the basic danger is manifested in daily Israeli aggression against Lebanon and others, as happened when the Iraqi nuclear reactor was hit, and the Israeli leaders' threat that they would not allow the Arabs to use nuclear energy in development.

PDRY

LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES FOR WORKING VISIT

EA161910 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, arrived in Aden this evening on a working visit to Democratic Yemen at the head of a high-level delegation. The visit will last several days.

The distinguished guest was given an official welcome on arrival at Aden International Airport. At the head of those welcoming him was Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Others at the airport were members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, ministers, senior government and party officials and brother members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Aden.

On disembarking from the aircraft Brother al-Qadhdhafi was warmly embraced by his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Two little girls presented two bouquets of roses to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad for his distinguished guest. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad then accompanies the distinguished guest to the dias and the two national anthems were played. Then Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi inspected an honor guard lined up at the airport to salute him. He then shook hands with members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee and senior officials.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Aden comes within the context of fraternal contacts and meetings between the Yemeni and Libyan revolutions to strengthen their role within the Arab liberational struggle movement opposed to imperialism, Zionism and reaction, but for freedom and progress, and to study the situation and developments in the Arab arena, the international situation and the intensified imperialist moves aimed at the freedom of our Arab peoples and the peace- and freedom-loving forces of the world.

The delegation accompanying the distinguished guest includes Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary for foreign affairs, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the General People's Congress.

AS-SADAT VIEWS CALL FOR U.S.-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE

NC160852 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that the important negotiations which Philip Habib, the envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to the Middle East, has conducted to end the war in Lebanon prepared the way for his call for a direct dialogue between the U.S. Government and the Palestinian leaderships, within the framework of the efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the weekly newspaper AS-SIYASI, published today, President as-Sadat explained that the U.S. envoy held direct contacts with all the parties with a view to achieving a cease-fire. He held contacts with the Saudis, the Palestinians and the Israelis. He also held contacts with Damascus. He conveyed the opinion of one side to the other and passed on the answers of each side to the questions of the other. He moved freely between all the capitals to hold his contacts and negotiations. The president added that whenever the U.S. envoy found it impossible to move directly from Saudi Arabia to Israel or vice versa, he used to stop over in Cairo for a period of time and then proceed to the capital he wanted to visit.

The president said: After the U.S. envoy had succeeded, with the help of Saudi Arabia, to achieve a cease-fire agreement in Lebanon--which was the first agreement of its kind between the Israelis and the Palestinians since the 1948 war--I heard a statement by Yasir 'Arafat affirming that he will respect and will implement the cease-fire agreement. The president continued: Then I said that if matters have become so [word indistinct], why shouldn't a direct dialogue begin between the Palestinians and the Americans? Hence, the idea of calling for a dialogue was born.

Asked about Egypt's next step after calling for a dialogue, President as-Sadat said: There will be no next step at present. It is only fair to give the U.S. President and his assistants enough time to study the idea of a dialogue. President as-Sadat added: It is necessary to wait until the U.S. President completes his round of meetings with the concerned parties and receives their views. Then it will be easier for the United States to define its next moves, in its capacity as a full partner in the efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace.

In reply to a question by the editor in chief of AS-SIYASI newspaper on whether he envisages a role for Europe at this stage, President as-Sadat said: The European role at this stage is to participate with the United States in its great pressuring and persuasion efforts regarding the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East as well as to be involved in the question of guarantees which will be given to the countries of the area.

Asked whether the stage of guarantees that Europe and the United States are to give to the countries of the area would be the final stage in the peace process, President as-Sadat said: The discussion of guarantees is not linked to a specific time framework; their discussion does not require other steps that must precede them. The president added: The question of guarantees must be discussed from now on, simultaneously with the discussion of the other points pertaining to a comprehensive peace.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS AS-SADAT SUNDAY TIMES INTERVIEW

NC170906 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 17 Aug 81

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM highlights on its front page President Anwar as-Sadat's interview to the SUNDAY TIMES, in which he announced that the era of the establishment of military bases in Egypt or other countries in the world has ended and that this is a remnant of the old colonialist rule.

The president explained that in the Middle East, Egypt has more strategic importance than Israel because it has an important place between three continents. It also has the capacity to provide military assistance to any Arab country during an emergency situation--something that Israel cannot do. The president added that all that Egypt wants is that the United States give the necessary arms to Egypt so that it can defend itself and protect Saudi Arabia if need be. This follows the collapse of the balance of power in the region during the past few years.

GHALI COMMENTS ON SINAI FORCE, AFRICAN ISSUES

NC161411 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt is holding contacts with the Latin American states and some European and Asian states aimed at the participation of the largest number of these states in the multinational force in Sinai. He said that the results of these contacts will appear in the next few weeks. He added that Egypt is anxious that all the continents and the greatest number of states be represented in this force, the aim of which is to consolidate peace in the Middle East. In a statement to one of our correspondents, Dr Ghali said that the mission of this force will end if a comprehensive and durable peace is established in the Middle East.

Concerning Prince Fahd's proposal on the Middle East, Dr Ghali said that Egypt welcomes any new initiative to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Egypt, he added, had previously welcomed the Soviet initiative and the Romanian initiative and declared its support for the European initiative. Egypt's aim is to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and if this is achieved by a new method, then we would welcome this new method. Egypt does not adhere to a certain method for achieving peace in the Middle East. What it adheres to is the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Concerning the measures which the Israeli defense minister announced to create an atmosphere of trust among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, Dr Ghali said: We must wait first for the response of the Palestinian people to these measures. If they respond favorably, then we could say that we have overcome an obstacle and come closer to the goal of a comprehensive peace. He added: Egypt advocated that it was necessary that Israel adopt measures to build trust among the Palestinian people to enable them to participate in the achievement of peace in the region. Egypt submitted two official notes in this regard during November 1978 and October 1980.

Concerning Egypt's possible participation in the African force whose task is to solve the Chadian problem, Dr Ghali said: If the African states make such a request to Egypt, then Egypt would study this issue. He added that Egypt has announced its preparedness to transport the African forces to Chad and that it contributes to the safeguarding of Chad's unity and independence.

In conclusion, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Ghali said that Egypt is giving all kinds of political, military and economic aid to the people of Namibia to help them attain their independence. The best proof of Egypt's interest in Namibia's independence is that President Anwar as-Sadat was keen on dealing with this issue during the discussions he held with U.S. President Reagan. This confirms that Egypt's interest in achieving peace in the Middle East will not be at the expense of achieving peace in Africa and of Namibia's independence.

'ALI SENDS MESSAGE TO ISRAEL'S YITZHAQ SHAMIR

NC150753 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)--In a message to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stresses that the peace treaty does not affect Egypt's commitments in accordance with the UN Charter and that the treaty stipulates that both sides will implement all international covenants in their foreign relations. In reporting this today, AL-AHRAM says that 'Ali's message, which was conveyed by Muhammad Baysuni, the Egyptian Embassy's charge d'affaires in Israel, to Yitzhaq Shamir, includes an answer to the message Shamir sent last month in which he referred to the tone of the Egyptian press in its coverage of the Iraqi reactor incident and some Israeli actions.

'Ali points out that the world condemned the Israeli raids because they constitute a violation of international law and the UN Charter.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also points out that Egypt had previously condemned the interference in Lebanon and the action against the Palestinians in the occupied territory. He said Egypt has always demanded the adoption of trust-building measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'ALI MEETS WITH JAPANESE DELEGATION, PRC ENVOY

NC151639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the visitng Japanese parliamentary delegation led by (Yushimanshi Fujita), adviser of political studies and member of the Japanese Democratic Party.

The discussions at the meeting dealt with the bilateral relations between Egypt and Japan and means to strengthen them, the latest developments in the situation in relation to the Middle East question and Egypt's efforts for establishing a just and lasting peace in the region. The Japanese delegation arrived last Thursday on a 3-day visit to Cairo.

'Ali also met with the Chinese charge d'affaires in Cairo. The discussion dealt with means for strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields and the developments in the Middle East question in the light of President as-Sadat's visit to Britain and the United States.

MUBARAK RECEIVES SOMALI ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER

NC151313 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Aug (MENA)--Vice President Husni Mubarak this morning received Somali acting Defense Minister ('Umar al-Haj Muhammad) who is currently visiting Egypt. The meeting took place in Ra's at'Tin Palace was attended by Somali Ambassador in Cairo Abdulrahim Farah.

Following the meeting, which lasted about an hour, the Somali minister said that he delivered a written message from Somali President Siad Barre to President Anwar as-Sadat. Answering a question about the contents of the letter, he said that it deals with the close relations between Egypt and Somalia and the bolstering of bilateral cooperation. He said that Mubarak conveyed regards to the Somali president.

Minister's 15 Aug Departure

NC151315 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)--Somali Acting Defense Minister Maj Gen ('Uman al-Haj Muhammad) left Cairo this afternoon following a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he held discussions with military personnel.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 14-16 AUG

Communique No 429

JN141555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)--Our armed forces' military operations last night and today resulted in the killing of 20 Iranians and the destruction of a number of vehicles and equipment. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 429 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The outcome of our armed forces' activities last night and today was as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Eight killed and one observation post destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
B. Four killed and two vehicles, one stockpile of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Shush area.
C. Three killed and two observation posts destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
D. Three killed and one stockpile of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Sumar area.
E. Two killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
F. One gun and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Dezful area.
G. One vehicle destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 20 killed and 3 vehicles, 1 gun, 4 stockpiles of hardware and 5 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, three vehicles and one gun damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 August 1981

Communique No 430

JN151707 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Communique No 430 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 15 August 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy personnel concentration was sighted in front of the positions of one of our forward units in the Nowsud region. It was hit with various weapons and sustained nine killed.
B. Our units pounded an enemy concentration in the Gilan-e Gharb region and forced it to retreat, killing eight.
C. Three killed and one vehicle loaded with charlatan Khomeyni guards, one gun and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
D. Three killed and one vehicle and one gun destroyed in the Dezful region.
E. Three killed and one vehicle destroyed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.

F. Two killed and one observation post destroyed in the Shush region.
G. Two killed and three stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan region.
H. Two killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Sumar region.
I. Three vehicles, one loaded with hardware, destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 32 killed and 6 vehicles, 2 guns, 5 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Eight martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 August 1981

Communique No 431

JN161713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)--Our brave armed forces inflicted losses on the Iranian enemy during their military activities last night and today. Our forces killed 69 Iranians and destroyed 4 infantry positions, 8 vehicles, 3 guns, 8 stockpiles of hardware, 1 observation post and 1 excavator. This was stated in Communique No 431 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command.

The communique put our losses at 14 martyrs in all sectors and two vehicles damaged. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 431 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The army of Iraq and the Arab nation continued its activities in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Using various types of arms, our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, forcing it to retreat after sustaining 26 killed. Our forces also killed seven Iranians and destroyed three vehicles and one stockpile of hardware in the same area.
B. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Shush area. Our units pounded it, killing nine and destroying two vehicles. Our units also destroyed one infantry position in the same area.
C. Eight killed and one infantry position, two vehicles, two guns and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
D. Six killed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Four killed and one infantry position, one excavator, two stockpiles of hardware and one observation post destroyed in Dezful.
F. Four killed and one stockpile destroyed in the Sumar area.
G. Three killed in the Mehran area.
H. Two killed in the Nowsud area.
I. One vehicle and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
J. Two stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 69 killed and 3 infantry positions, 8 vehicles, 3 guns, 1 excavator, 8 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 14 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles damaged.
C. At noon today the Persian enemy shelled Basra with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 August 1981

RAMADAN MEETS WITH JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER

JN161115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, met here this morning with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, attended.

The two sides discussed matters related to the economic coordination and integration between the two fraternal countries, as well as the expansion of the volume of their trade exchange. They also discussed other matters related to the forthcoming meeting of the joint Iraqi-Jordanian committee, the establishment of a joint industrial company to act as a nucleus for a large Arab industrial company and the expansion of the activities undertaken by the joint Iraqi-Jordanian land transport company.

The Jordanian prime minister is accompanying King Husayn on his current visit to Baghdad.

KING HUSAYN LEAVES IRAQ 16 AUG FOLLOWING TALKS

JN161107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)--King Husayn of Jordan left Baghdad at noon today, concluding a 2-day visit. He was accorded a grand official send-off headed by President Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, a number of RCC members and ministers.

Yesterday President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn held talks on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them, in addition to the most important Arab and international developments.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR YUGOSLAVIA FOR TALKS

JN150948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)--'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, Revolution Command Council member and minister of local government, left Baghdad for Belgrade today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Yugoslavia.

The delegation will hold talks with Yugoslav officials on bilateral relations and ways of expanding cooperation between the two friendly countries in the various fields, particularly those of local administration and municipal services.

The delegation comprises Jamal al-Haj Sharif, chairman of the autonomous region's executive council; Safa' Ahmad al-'Umar; and Dr Midhat Mubarak, National Assembly member.

KING HUSAYN, IRAQI PRESIDENT MEET IN BAGHDAD

JN151635 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad--His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held a long preliminary meeting upon his majesty's arrival in Baghdad today. Official talks will begin between the Jordanian and the Iraqi sides this evening.

Further on Baghdad Meeting

JN160843 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held a 3-hour meeting in Baghdad last night. A detailed discussion was held on the current Arab situation in light of the challenges facing the Arab nation as represented by Israel's expansionist policy and continuous aggression against the Arab homeland.

The two leaders exchanged their assessment of the situation in light of international policies and their reflection on the region. The two sides discussed methods of guaranteeing a minimum level of Arab solidarity and stressed the need to adhere to the basic principles approved by the Baghdad Arab summit conference.

They stressed the importance of continuing work for safeguarding the supreme Arab interests from schemes aimed against the Arab nation and its principal issue--Palestine.

President Saddam Husayn reviewed the political and military situation resulting from the just Iraqi war against Iranian ambitions and also the strong Iraqi military situation at the battlefront and the Iraqi people's determination to wrench their full rights.

The Jordanian and Iraqi sides also discussed means to develop cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields.

The meeting was attended for Jordan by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi and Jordanian Ambassador in Baghdad Falih at-Tawil. It was attended for Iraq by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and First Deputy Prime Minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Na'im Haddad, National Assembly speaker; and some RCC members and ministers.

COMMITTEE ON U.S. BOYCOTT MIGHT BE FORMED

JN170913 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 81 pp 1, 20

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Haj, dentists' doyen and chairman of the professional unions complex committee, has said that the competent quarters have been officially approached with a request to form a standing national committee in Jordan to implement the idea of a popular Jordanian boycott of the United States.

Dr al-Haj told AD-DUSTUR that a preliminary committee comprising the heads of professional unions and some public figures has been formed to study the most feasible methods to implement this idea. He added: The competent quarters have been contacted to hold a meeting in Amman on 22 August to discuss the concepts and proposals being prepared by the preliminary committee on the boycott of the United States in view of its hostile stands against our nation and central issue and its unlimited support for the aggressive Zionist entity. AD-DUSTUR has learned that the national committee in Jordan might comprise 100-150 members.

REPORTS ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES 17-18 AUG

NC170737 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] Our reporters in the southern suburb report that fierce battles are raging between the Amal Movement and the communists, that shells are falling at the rate of one or two each minute on the opposing axes in the Ash-Shiyah area and that there are several dead and wounded, the number of which is not precisely known because of the intensity of the clashes. The security committee has not yet been able to stop the clashes. The fighting between Amal and the communists began in the (Madi) and Mar Mikhayil quarters. The area of fighting extended late last night to include all of Ash-Shiyah and the areas of Burj al-Barajinah and the Shatila and Beirut airport circles, where several shells fell, causing material damage. The Ash-Shiyah-Galerie Sim'an is now passable again following the end of fighting in the inner quarters in the areas of Ash-Shiyah and Burj al-Barajinah.

In the capital, the commercial area, Al-Yasu'iyah, the Sedeco and Al-Barjawi were the scene of heavy sniper fire. Artillery and rocket shells fell on the residential areas. The aliens' actions continued until dawn today. A shell fell on the Ashmun building, killing Muhammad Hamzah. Early this morning sniper fire rained on the Sodeco road and the port area endangering traffic. Work at the port has cautiously resumed.

ADF Deployment

NC170745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] Security sources reported a short while ago that the intensity of the clashes in the southern suburb has eased as a result of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] deployment to the As-Sayr area to contain the deterioration of the security situation that the area witnessed last night and this morning as a result of clashes between two local organizations. The Galerie Sim'an and port roads are now passable.

AL-WAZZAN SPEAKS TO REPORTERS AT BEIRUT AIRPORT

NC170817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan left Beirut International Airport at 0730 today for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, starting a 3-day trip taking him to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The prime minister is accompanied by the director of protocol and public relations at the prime minister's office, 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykhah, and an information delegation.

Prior to his departure, Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked: What can you say upon leaving on an Arab tour aimed at convening an Arab summit conference? He answered:

[Begin recording] All that I can say is that I will convey Lebanon's concerns and hopes to our Arab brothers, because we feel that we are really brothers and feel the need for a joint action, not in the interests of Lebanon alone, but also in the interests of all the Arabs. What is happening in our homeland does not harm us alone; we are certain, and this I will explain in detail, that it harms all our brothers. Therefore I am fully confident that I am going to those who are concerned and those with whom we must cooperate to end our present situation as a service to Lebanon and to the Arabs' issues.

[Question] Will Lebanon ask the Arab brothers to formulate a unified Arab strategy to confront the situation in the south?

[Answer] This issue is known to all. Yes, we concentrate on this issue in all the Arab circles and in all our contacts.

As long as we feel that we are a part of the Arab world and as long as the Arab world (?admits) that we are a part of it, there must be fruitful cooperation at the highest levels. When I say the highest levels, I stress that there is nothing higher than a unified Arab strategy to confront the dangers surrounding us.

[Question] Will you ask that the efforts of the Arab followup committee be bolstered, especially because of the fear that its meeting early next month will be postponed?

[Answer] The Arab followup committee was formed to implement the Arab resolutions and as a result of the opinions and decisions made at the summit conference and at the foreign ministers conference. Surely all the summit resolutions must necessarily bolster the Arab followup committee.

Your fear that the committee might not convene is groundless and unjustified. We feel that the determination of our Arab brothers to follow up this question is a strong determination that must continue until the end.

FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE MEETS; AL-WAZZAN STATEMENT

NC151431 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] The Arab followup committee held a meeting at the ambassadorial level at 1215 today in the Republican Palace in B'abda under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. Members of the Arab followup committee Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, Chief of the Security Intelligence in the Syrian Forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces Col Muhammad Ghanim attended the meeting. The representative of the Arab League secretary general, Ambassador Mahmud al-Ma'muri, was absent from the meeting because he is abroad. The meeting lasted until 1335. After the meeting Saudi Ambassador ash-Sha'ir made the following statement on behalf of his colleagues, Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan and Colonel Ghanim:

During the meeting we heard all the points and remarks that His Excellency President Sarkis made. A plan of action has been drawn up and it has been agreed to convene another meeting, either during this week or not later than this coming Saturday, to assess all the results of the moves that all members of the followup committee will make in keeping with the instructions of His Excellency President Sarkis. Ambassador ash-Sha'ir further said: At the end of the meeting I delivered to President Sarkis a written message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in reply to a previous letter I conveyed from President Sarkis.

Asked whether from now until the next meeting the committee will continue its contacts with the parties concerned, Ash-Sha'ir said: I believe that things will be decided at the next meeting. The issue of contacts will be decided at the next meeting, but this does not mean that the committee will not hold meetings during this time.

Asked if today's meeting touched on the escalation in the security situation currently witnessed in the capital, Beirut, Ash-Sha'ir said: This issue was discussed at the meeting and certain urgent steps have been taken that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan may explain to you in detail when he leaves the palace.

On leaving the palace Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked if he could give any details on the meeting of the Arab followup committee today. Al-Wazzan said: The committee met at the invitation of His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis as soon as Ambassador ash-Sha'ir returned to Beirut after his recovery, and as soon as Colonel Ghanim returned from Tripoli.

Naturally the committee reviewed the situation since its latest meeting in B'abda at the foreign minister's level. Regrettably, the committee noted the deterioration in security in Lebanon. This situation necessitated interest. Undoubtedly, at its first meeting when it was formed, the committee undertook the task of stopping the firing. The first statement of the committee noted the cease-fire. Today we focused on this issue which will continue to receive our constant interest until the cease-fire is honored throughout Lebanon, particularly following the disorder on the port road, the closure of the Sodeco Road and the incidents in Tripoli and Beirut. On the political level, the committee assessed all stands and moves that emerged recently. The committee will convene again this coming Saturday.

Asked whether security measures have been taken or discussed to stop the escalation, al-Wazzan said: It is not up to the committee to take such measures but it discussed them. As a responsible authority, we the Lebanese and the Arab Deterrent Forces must coordinate our action to return the situation to normalcy.

Asked if in addition to the Arab followup committee work there was, as is well known, a call to convene an Arab summit conference and where have things stand regarding this, and when Lebanon will start sending envoys to the Arab countries, Al-Wazzan said: We did not discuss this at today's meeting. We began yesterday to make contacts with certain Arab countries concerned to fix dates for my visits and the visits by Lebanese envoys to activate this issue with Arab officials.

Asked if Lebanon has completed drawing up a file for discussions with these Arab countries, Al-Wazzan said: The file has been ready for a long time and does not need new preparations.

Asked when the Lebanese envoys will leave on this mission, Al-Wazzan said: I have said that we have started our contacts and we are waiting for the dates to be set for us.

Noting that it is well known that the Arab followup committee at the ambassadorial level has been entrusted with a specific mission, Al-Wazzan was asked whether at today's meeting the committee discussed a program for these visits and whether contacts or the meetings were merely preliminary ones, Al-Wazzan said: Our meeting today was preliminary, but no doubt there have been security developments since the latest meeting at B'abda. These developments took an important part of our meeting today because if there is no convenient security atmosphere how can we think of another atmosphere.

SARKIS ADDRESSES FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE 15 AUG

NC151945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] The Arab followup committee at the ambassadorial level will hold its next meeting at the end of the coming week. At the outset of today's meeting of the committee, President Ilyas Sarkis affirmed that the Arab initiatives were adequate to extract Lebanon from its ordeal and to restore calm and stability in the country and the most prominent of these initiatives was that presented by the Arab followup committee.

President Sarkis added: Our call for convening an Arab summit conference confirms the importance of the Arab initiatives.

Noting the work of the followup committee, the president said: It has possibly tackled more than one issue for which we had not envisaged an early solution. At the beginning of the meeting, President Sarkis welcomed members of the committee and said: The committee's meeting will have positive reflections, bringing reassurances to everybody. This alone is sufficient to emphasize the importance of the committee's role and also to say that the Arab initiatives alone can extract Lebanon from its ordeal and to restore calm and stability in the country and that the most prominent of these initiatives was that presented by the Arab followup committee.

President Sarkis added: I would like to explain that our call for convening an Arab summit meeting affirms the great hopes we attach to the brotherly initiatives which the Arab states can undertake to remedy what we are suffering from.

Noting the role of the followup committee, the president said: It has possibly tackled more than one issue for which we had not envisaged an early conclusion. [sentence as heard]

President Sarkis then reviewed the developments in the Lebanaese arena. He summed up what the committee could possibly carry out in the current phase and said: The security stability allows the handling of any issue and opens the way for any dialogue to prepare for the forthcoming meeting of the committee at the ministrial level. Therefore, we still believe that priority should be given to security affairs in every new step we decide to take.

The president noted the state of caution and the attempts to heat up the situation in Beirut, the mountains and in the north, which might lead to an eruption of the security situation and consequently to undermining the followup committee meeting on 3 September and the hopes for achieving conciliation, and said: The followup committee's efforts are centered on achieving national accord while efforts in the field were centered on blocking the crossings and on heating up the fronts. This was evident in the recent incidents of sniper fire on the port area and blocking the port road and the Sodeco Road by all means and heating up the contact lines in general. There is definitely an information campaign hostile to any national conciliation or accord. Therefore, we must cool off the security situation and contribute toward a campaign in favor of national accord. We must also discuss the possibility of holding bilateral conciliatory meetings to create an appropriate climate for the accord.

AL-WAZZAN LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 17 AUG

NC170649 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan left Beirut airport at 0730 today for Saudi Arabia to begin a Gulf tour during which he will hold discussions on the situation in Lebanon and the convocation of an Arab summit to discuss the question of the south. Prior to his departure, Prime Minister al-Wazzan made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] All that I can say is that I will convey Lebanon's concerns and hopes to our Arab brothers, because we feel that we are really brothers and feel the need for a joint action, not in the interests of Lebanon alone but also in the interests of all the Arabs. What is happening in our homeland does not harm us alone; we are certain, and this I will explain in detail, that it harms all our brothers. Therefore, I am fully confident that I am going to those who are concerned and those with whom we must cooperate to end our present situation as a service to Lebanon and to the Arabs' issues. [end recording]

BEGIN SAYS U.S. TO RELEASE F-15'S, F-16'S

TA161208 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has said that the U.S. President is going to announce the release of the F-16's and F-15's and the planes will depart for Israel within a few days. The prime minister said that the embargo on their supply was a wrong done by the United States. According to the contract these were not U.S. aircraft but Israeli aircraft which were withheld on U.S. territory. The prime minister announced that next Tuesday [25 August]--in 10 days--he will meet with the Egyptian president in Alexandria. He will stay in Egypt for 2 days. He will be joined by the defense minister, the foreign minister and Minister Burg. Minister Ari'el Sharon has cancelled his trip which was originally scheduled for the middle of this week.

Begin on Aircraft Use

TA161226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet met this morning in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Begin reviewed Israeli-American relations. Answering questions after the meeting, the prime minister was asked whether Israel had agreed not to use U.S.-supplied aircraft for attack missions.

[Begin recording] To the contrary, I want to tell you there is not a word of truth in that report. We never heard such a demand by the United States, and why should we offer such a suggestion which would be completely out of this world? We never attack.

And then I would like to tell you. You again used the word: American planes. They are not American planes, they are Israeli planes made in the United States. And this is a very serious help to Israel's national security. I would like to tell you that we also help American national security and the Americans know it very well.

[Question] Have you some reaction to the Saudi Arabian initiative of Prince Fahd?

[Answer] There is no peace initiative by Prince Fahd. I made an analysis of what Prince Fahd said at the press conference. You don't find even the word recognition of Israel. It was a complete mistake by all the press to say that Saudi Arabia is now prepared to recognize Israel. I read out loud what was written in the report. Prince Fahd said that he is prepared to recognize all states in the Middle East. He didn't mention Israel at all in connection with recognition. And I would like to tell you that for almost 20 years many Arab states used this formula and when they are asked; does it include Israel? They say: Israel is no state. [end recording]

Begin on Letter to Haig

TA161517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Mr Begin reported at the 16 August Cabinet session that he intends to explain to the Americans that Israel will not tolerate another war of attrition in the north.

In a letter he is to send to Secretary of State Haig, the prime minister will emphasize the danger of a continuation of the terrorists' reinforcements along the border with Israel. Mr Begin will also point out that Israel will not put up with another arms embargo, as in the F-16 and F-15 aircraft affair.

Further Details

TA161601 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Prime Minster Begin's remarks to reporters following 16 August Cabinet session--recorded]

[Excerpt] We are carrying out flights [over Lebanon] and we know everything the terrorists are doing. We, naturally, take a very grave view of what they are doing.

Regarding this, we shall be in contact with the U.S. Government in the very near future. I have received a letter from the secretary of state following President as-Sadat's visit and I intend to reply to this letter in the coming days. There is no doubt that in this letter I shall discuss the developments in Lebanon.

On my own initiative I would like to tell you that we have a problem regarding the missiles the Syrians have installed in Lebanon. Mr Philip Habib's first mission dealt with how to get these missiles withdrawn. I intend to write the secretary of state and tell him that Mr Philip Habib has not yet solved the problem. Therefore, we would like to know: Has he ended his mission, or will he continue to deal with the matter? In the light of the reply we receive, we shall discuss what to do regarding this matter.

MA'ARIV: Agreement on Planes

TA161030 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Aug 81 pp 1, 11

[Report by MA'ARIV correspondent in New York Razi Gutterman]

[Excerpts] Israel and the United States have reached an understanding on the use Israel will make of military equipment supplied to it by the United States. It is expected that this understanding would pave the way for an announcement by President Reagan tomorrow that he would now allow the 14 F-16's and 2 F-15's, whose delivery has been upheld, to be sent to Israel.

The gist of this understanding, according to reports in some newspapers and the television network, is that Israel would avoid making use of U.S. fighter aircraft for offensive purposes like it did in bombing the nuclear reactor in Iraq or in bombing terrorist headquarters in Beirut.

Editorials on Aircraft

TA170814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 17 Aug 81

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HA'ARETZ writes that all of us hope Mr Begin's prediction will come true and that the aircraft which have been delayed for many weeks will arrive in Israel within a few days. However, it emerges that the end of the suspension will cost us a political price and that the affair will not be closed just because we presented our legitimate arguments. The prime minister has refrained from denying a report that Israel has undertaken, following lengthy negotiations, to abstain from using U.S. fighters for attack purposes. According to the paper, Mr Begin's silence on the matter obviously leads to the conclusion that there is truth to these reports. Even if this misunderstanding is solved soon we would be well advised not to forget the lesson it entails.

HAMODI'A says that it has now emerged that neither shock following the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, nor the bombing on Beirut led the U.S. administration to decide on the suspension of aircraft deliveries to Israel, but rather its desire to create an easier atmosphere for the difficult mission of removing opposition to the supply of sophisticated aircraft to Saudi Arabia. The policy of establishing fait accomplis on the eve of the prime minister's visit to the United States, certainly strengthens the challenge of this visit.

HATZOFE notes that the prime minister's decision to seek clarifications from the United States is meant to make plain that the missile crisis is still pending. Israel still insists on the removal of the Syrian missiles from Lebanese territory. If the United States does not carry this out, Israel will be forced to look for other means to handle this crisis. In any case, the Washington administration must realize that the crisis might even deteriorate if it does not take proper action to bring about a rapid settlement of the crisis as it had undertaken to do when it appointed Philip Habib. This should also serve as a reminder to the Damascus rulers that Israel does not intend to give up on its firm and unambiguous demand to pull the missiles out of Lebanon.

MORE ON 'EVRON'S REMARKS AFTER HAIG MEETING

TA140937 Jerusalem POST in English 14 Aug 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpts] Washington--U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig yesterday indicated to Israeli Ambassador Ephraim 'Evron that President Ronald Reagan will lift the suspended delivery of 16 advanced fighter planes to Israel early next week.

'Evron denied that the administration had made any demands on Israel in exchange for a lifting of the delivery suspension, first imposed following Israel's aerial attack against the Iraqi nuclear reactor in June and later retained after the Israeli bombing of Palestine Liberation Organization targets in Beirut. Earlier this week, the suspension was broadened to include two F-15's, which had been scheduled for shipment yesterday, as well as the 14 F-16's.

Asked whether the lifting of the aircraft suspension was linked to an easing of Israel's opposition to the proposed Saudi AWACS sale, 'Evron replied firmly: "Absolutely not."

'Evron confirmed that Israel is paying the U.S. to keep the suspended jets at an American airbase. He said this is "adding insult to injury." Press reports have said these costs came to about $13,500 a week.

According to informed diplomatic sources, 'Evron told the secretary that the suspension is the source of considerable concern within Israel. The envoy pointed to the fact that the suspension is perceived in the Arab news media, especially within Egypt, as "an anti-Israel act" by the U.S. Government.

Haig, in reply, is said to have assured 'Evron that U.S. support for Israel remains firm and that there has been no change in basic American policy. The secretary explained that the inclusion of F-15's into the suspended category was designed to put some "space" between the end of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Washington and the formal announcement releasing the aircraft.

The Americans apparently believed that a quick release of the aircraft immediately after the As-Sadat-Begin summit might have been seen in the Arab world as indicating As-Sadat's support for the decision.

Most informed U.S. and Israeli officials are confident the planes will be released next week, following Reagan's National Security Council meeting. But they were also confident earlier this week that the F-15's would not be included in the suspended category, only to find themselves very surprised when they were.

"There still might be a 'puncture,'" a reliable source said.

But another source insisted that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, considered the prime mover in the administration behind the aircraft suspension, has now agreed to go along with a lifting of the embargo, and that should insure its approval by the president.

SHARON DENIES HAVING 'NEW POLICY' FOR TERRITORIES

TA161309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Excerpt] During the Cabinet session, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon denied having a new policy for the territories. Prime Minister Begin reported this at the end of the Cabinet session, adding that Minister Sharon was acting in accordance with the Cabinet's policy in the territories. Mr Begin also reported that the defense minister had told the Cabinet that there are no delays in the construction of the Negev airfields. Last week Ari'el Sharon visited one of the airfields and saw that construction work was proceeding according to schedule.

Sharon, Arab Notables To Meet

TA161636 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon did not meet today with Arab notables from the territories. It appears that in the coming days the minister will commence his meeting with influential officials, among them even persons considered to hold extremist views. As for the details and dates of the meetings, it was reported today from the Defense Ministry that they will not be held in the spotlight, nor will they be made public.

The intention of the defense minister's planned meetings with influential persons in the territories is primarily to get to know the notables of the region. In addition, the aim is to create a basis for mutual trust which will allow them to express openly their views on various issues.

The coordinator of activities in the administered areas, Maj Gen Dani Mat, today met with the prime minister and the defense minister. Their meeting apparently centered on the approach to dealing with the territories.

Arab Mayors on Meetings

TA161147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Report by Arye Gus within the midday newsreel]

[Text] The mayors in the territories say that if Defense Minister Sharon first meets with notables connected with the village associations they will refuse to meet with him whatever the results. One of the mayors noted that they were democratically elected to represent the residents. The defense minister indeed can meet with whoever he wants, but he should take the leaders of the territories into consideration. If he first meets with the village associations this will cast a big question mark on the dialogue Mr Sharon wants to maintain with the inhabitants in the territories.

Minister Sharon's planned talks with Arab notables is the topic of the day in Judaea and Samaria and although it is still unknown with whom and when he will meet, the various regional bodies are preparing for the talks by formulating their positions. Today it seems that the general view is that softening the ironhand policy is not enough and that the residents' major problem is the occupation. This position is acceptable both to moderate notables such as Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa. [sentence as heard] East Jerusalem's AL-QUDS writes in this spirit as well this morning.

One can easily understand the strong fear of any step which may be interpreted as readiness for the autonomy idea, hence the opposition of the mayors to an Israeli dialogue with the village associations, the less nationalistic elements in the territories. It is known that the military authorities are fostering and prompting the associations of these villages, those that have already been set up in the Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah districts as well as those which are going to be set up in Samaria. Recently the struggle between the nationalistic bodies in the territories, which are represented by the municipalities and the village associations, has increased with the aim of preventing them from becoming an alternative leadership as the military authorities may have wishes.

Gaza Roadblocks Removed

TA161024 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Aug 81 p 1

[R. Ga'on report]

[Text] The roadblocks that have stood for many years at the entrances to the Gaza Strip were removed last Thursday morning.

This is a permanent move that came as a result of Ari'el Sharon's announcement, as the new defense minister, that a more lenient policy will be implemented toward the inhabitants of the territories. The three roadblocks that were removed are those linking the strip and the Green Line: in Erez, Nahal 'Oz and Kerem Shalom. The two that have not been removed are those on the road to the Ne'ot Sinai roadblock in the Rafah Approaches.

E. Jerusalem Papers on Policy

TA141025 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Aug 81 p 1

[Report by Q. Amnon]

[Excerpt] The East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR writes under the headline "Sharon's New Doctrine," that "the improvement in the attitude at roadblocks, the giving up of collective punishments, cessation of humilitating residents and the non-entry of the army into schools, even if all this materializes these points cannot bribe anyone or make anyone oblivious of the basic problem preoccupying the Arab residents of the occupied territories." The article states that the residents of the territories demand the realization of the national rights of the Palestinians and any attempt to build up a new leadership in the territories will fail.

AL-QUDS, in an editorial, says that the moves declared by Sharon must not remain, "they should be followed by others which deal with the Arab lands. An end should be put to land expropriations and to the establishment of settlements and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be honored."

SHAMIR, EGYPTIAN ENVOY REJECT SAUDI PLAN

TA140917 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Aug 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Semadar Peri]

[Text] In a meeting held this week Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and acting Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Ali Basyuni saw eye-to-eye regarding the Saudi peace plan. In the meeting held at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, Basyuni expressed Egypt's official position regarding the peace plan of the Saudi crown prince and emphasized that Egypt rejects the plan which it regards as a diversion from the Camp David accords.

Basyuni explained Egypt's position that if Saudi Arabia wants to join the peace process it must recognize the Camp David accords and act within their framework.

In the meeting Minister Shamir also said that Israel categorically rejects the plan.

The acting Egyptian ambassador--the ambassador is on leave--conveyed to Foreign Minister Shamir a letter from his Egyptian counterpart, Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The letter, described by Basyuni as "a friendly message," deals with Israeli-Egyptian relations and is a reply to the letter Minister Shamir sent to the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs about 1 month ago.

The acting Egyptian ambassador denied reports that his country was placing obstacles before Egyptian citizens asking to visit Israel. He referred to the sudden cancellation of the visit by the painter Samir Albanani who had been scheduled to open an exhibition in Tel Aviv this week. According to Basyuni, the Egyptian painter had not even applied in Cairo for a special passport required to travel to Israel.

Basyuni emphasized that a cellist, a pianist, two intellectuals and a water polo referee who participated in the Maccabiah games have recently visited Israel. He emphasized that their visits had been encouraged by the Foreign Ministry in Cairo.

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST KING HUSAYN REPORTED

TA141115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Security measures have been stepped up in Jordan. According to unconfirmed reports, an attempt to assassinate King Husayn was aborted last week. Many barriers have been set up along Jordanian roads and travelers and vehicles undergo meticulous checks. Intelligence officers also raid the houses of suspects in the middle of the night and conduct searches and arrests.

Sources in east Jerusalem have told our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, that Jordanian Army officers may have attempted to blow up the mosque where King Husayn had been scheduled to hold his holiday prayers and, at the same time, take over the palace and the radio stations. According to another report, the assassination attempt was planned by a terrorist squad which had infiltrated from Syria. King Husayn did not pray in that mosque but he showed up an hour later at another mosque. Other sources report that the serious security measures are designed to foil the terrorists' intentions to resume their military activities against Israel from Jordanian territory.

JORDAN REPORTEDLY FOILED ROCKET ATTACK ON ELAT

TA160842 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Aug 81 p 1

[Text] The West German news agency, DPA, yesterday reported that the Jordanian authorities recently prevented a terrorist rocket attack on Elat from the Jordanian Red Sea port of Al-'Aqabah. According to the report quoted by Israel radio, 10 Palestinian terrorists, and a number of Jordanian Army officers stationed in Al-'Aqabah who helped them, were arrested by the authorities.

The report said that Jordanian police prevented the attack at the last minute.

Reports from Jordan yesterday indicated that Jordan has stepped up its security precautions around the country, including throwing up roadblocks and mounting car checks along main roads. The reports suggested that Jordan was attempting to frustrate attempts by the terrorists to mount attacks on Israel through Jordan or possible attempts on Husayn's life.

'TERRORISTS' VIOLATE CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON

TA151832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Another reported violation of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon by the terrorists: Militia sources said the Christian village of Tall Lubyah was shelled this morning. Major Haddad's militia did not shoot back.

Syrians in Hasbayya Area

TA160835 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Aug 81 p 2

[Text] Metulla--Syrian soldiers and officers were seen in the area around the Al-Hasbani Bridge near the Druse village of Hasbayya, travellers in south Lebanon reported yesterday. The Syrians had been in the area until a few months ago, when they abandoned their base. This is the first time since the spring that they have been sighted in the area, according to southern Lebanese sources.

The travellers saw several vehicles with Syrian Army personnel, but no evidence of a redeployment in a permanent base. The Syrians' presence, however, raised suspicions that they might be planning a return.

The terrorists last night violated the cease-fire and fired several shells into the area held by Major Sa'd Haddad's Christian forces near Tall Lubyah, a militia spokesman said yesterday.

A UN spokesman, however, said that the two UNIFIL units stationed in the area near Tall Lubyah did not hear any shelling.

GAZA MAYOR REFUSED PERMISSION TO GO TO JORDAN

TA152111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] The Military Government has rejected the request by Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa to go to Jordan. Ash-Shawwa told the ITIM correspondent that he had asked to take his small grandchild to Amman so that he could continue his studies there. He will now send him with someone else. The mayor of Gaza repeated that, for the moment, no change can be seen in the area expressing Defense Minster Ari'el Sharon's policy. It was not the Erez roadblock, that was removed on the instructions of the defense minister, that disturbed me, Rashad ash-Shawwa said. What does disturb me is the conquest.

MILITARY DENIES HOLDUPS IN AIR BASE BUILDING

TA161220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Military sources have denied that there are holdups in building the Negev air bases which may necessitate lowering the alert in the air force or a delay in the withdrawal from the Sinai. The sources said that only in building unimportant service units have the Americans not kept on schedule. The members of the U.S. company--ABC--which is building the Ramat Matred field said there is no delay in the schedule and there is no basis for the report published by the Los Angeles TIMES newspaper. ABC personnel told our correspondent that the problem of housing for those who will serve in the air base will be solved, among other things, by settling them in the buildings now occupied by the builders of the air base.

The Los Angeles TIMES quoted the Etam air field commander as saying that no building in the new air bases was completed on schedule and that if the runways, the aircraft hangars and the refueling sites are not completed, the air force's level of alert will have to be decreased or the air force will have to remain in the Sinai for several more months.

BRIEFS

RISE IN FUELD PRICES--The prices of all types of heavy fuel--crude oil, diesel oil and kerosene--went up last night by an average of 18 percent. There was no change in the price of gasoline and cooking gas. The new price of one liter of diesel oil is 4.8 shekels, a liter of kerosene is 5.2 shekels. One ton of crude oil for the production of electricty will cost 2,384 shekels, whereas fuel for industrial purposes will cost 2,641 shekels. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Aug 81 TA]

SHEKEL STRENGTHENED--Israel's shekel strengthened last month against nearly all major currencies. The shekel increased in value by nearly 2 percent against the dollar and by an average of 2.5 percent against most European currencies. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Aug 81 TA]

PROCEEDINGS OF ENERGY CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI NOTED

AB141052 Lagos NAN in English 1018 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Nairobi, 14 Aug (OPECNA/NAN)--Nigeria has set up a national energy commission, Minister of Science and Technology Sylvester Ugoh told a plenary session of the UN conference on new and renewable sources of energy on Wednesday. He said that centers were being established for research and development in solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and small hydro schemes. Mr Ugoh said that the search for new sources of energy had become compelling owing to a number of factors. He listed them as: depleting natural resources, desertification, destruction of ecosystems, problems of rural populations and the seemingly high cost of oil, sold earlier at give-away prices.

Libya urged the conference to declare that all nations have the right to control new and renewable sources of energy within their territories.

Libya's secretary of oil, 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar, said that all countries should have the right to exploit their own resources provided they did not infringe on the interests of neighboring states, or do so at the expense of other nations' legitimate rights. He also urged the conference to declare that industrial facilities and equipment constructed by any nation for research and energy utilization should not be a target of attack by any other state.

The secretary for oil hoped that the conference would recommend measures which would release the burden placed on traditional sources of energy. Libya, he said, was paying serious attention to the study and evaluation of energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass in order to achieve a long-term balance of energy demand.

The economic adviser to the Venezuelan president, Manuel Perez Guerrero, said that more energy had been consumed over the past 15 years than during the entire history of mankind with the industrialized countries accounting for over 90 percent of the total. Developed countries, therefore, had a special responsibility to support countries moving toward the use of new and renewable sources of energy.

The energy problem, he said, was inseparable from other economic problems facing the world, and there was a need for a global approach to negotiations. There should be attempts to salvage international cooperation from stagnation. Efforts can be made to bring about deep-seated and long-lasting changes that will affect the lives of people. The countries of the Third World are willing to take on their responsibilities, Perez Guerrero added.

NINE COUNTRIES ASK ECOWAS TRADE EXEMPTION

AB151347 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] A committee meeting of ECOWAS has been held in Lagos, Nigeria. The meeting discussed a request by nine member countries to be exempted for the time being from the community's trade liberalization program which starts this year. The committee studied the request which was made by the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Upper Volta, Niger, Mali and Mauritania.

The nine countries felt that the 10 percent reduction in tariff as requested by ECOWAS would adversely affect their trade liberalization program. The committee was set up at the last Council of Ministers' meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, to consider the matter.

Addressing the meeting, Nigeria's national planning minister, Mrs Adenike Oyagbola, called for increased trade among West African countries. She advised members not to see themselves as winners or losers, but as brothers and sisters trying to resolve the problems of the same family.

LIBYA

BENIN PRESIDENT CONDEMNS U.S. ANTI-LIBYAN PLAN

LD140928 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Cotonou, 14 Aug (JANA)--The president of the People's Republic of Benin, Mathieu Kerekou, has condemned the American administration's terrorist plan to assassinate the revolution's leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. He informed the Libyan People's Bureau here of his stance during a meeting at the presidential palace.

He said: "We are not surprised by this criminal scheme engineered by the U.S. administration, which has, during the rule of all American presidents, practiced terrorist acts and dirty means, particularly since the advent of the Great Al-Fatah Revolution.

He added: "The hostile line followed by the American administration against the Libyan Arab people will not weaken this people. The American administration fully comprehends that the Great Al-Fatah Revolution has become a growing force in confronting America's ugly face."

He stressed: "History has taught us of how the Libyans fought against the fascists, how this people's will triumphed over those invaders and how that struggle was crowned with a revolution on the great Al-Fatah day."

President Mathieu Kerekou added that the victory of the Great Al-Fatah Revolution contributed in speeding up the advent of the revolution in the People's Republic of Benin. He went on to say "I and the people of Benin condemn all the U.S. imperialist attempts and stands against the people of the Jamahiriyah and our friend, the leader, Colonel Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi."

He added: "I affirm that the terrorist enemies cannot undermine the freedom of the Libyan people and the leader of its revolution, and that the people of Benin, despite its limited capacities, will stand by the people of the Jamahiriyah and by the leader of its revolution, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and we in the same trench."

The president of Benin told the secretary of the People's Bureau: "I hope you will affirm to the Libyan Arab people that the people of Benin and its revolution stand together by it and that the victory of the Great Al-Fatah Revolution is a victory for us and the enemy knows it."

CHADIAN MINISTERS THANK LIBYAN SOLDIERS FOR AID

LD161200 Tripoli JANA In English 0948 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Aug (JANA)--The Chadian defence and interior ministers yesterday inspected armed forces units in the central region, who participated in defeated [as received] the renegade forces of the butcher Hissein Habre, and who helped bring about freedom and peace to the country.

The armed forces units received the two Frolinat members with loud cheers and revolutionary slogans affirming their readiness to defend the Libyan Arab and Chadian people against all those seeking to curtail their freedom.

The Chadian defence minister also delivered a speech in which he saluted Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and praised his heroic stands for freedom, peace and justice. He said: "We highly appreciate the role played by the Great Al-Fatah Revolution and its leader towards our people and freedom."

He told the army units: "Your heroic, humanitarian and bold mission has not yet ended, for you have to continue the struggle to liberate Arabs and Africans, to entrench security, stability and peace and to realise revolutionary goals throughout the world."

The defence minister expressed appreciation for the warmth of the welcome he received from the armed forces units that fought bravely in Chad for its people's freedom.

He concluded: "In the name of President Goukduni Oueddei and the Chadian people and armed forces, we express our deep gratitude for performing your duties towards your brethren in Chad and towards the Frolinat revolution in an effort to entrench security, peace, freedom and dignity in Chad."

MAURITANIA

COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNS RSA ACTIONS IN ANGOLA

AB141737 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] South African aggression continues and in spite of international (?order) Pretoria is opposed to the success of Angolan towns [words indistinct] Namibia. Mauritania has not ceased to condemn this situation strongly and to call upon the international community in general and the African community in particular to take the necessary measures to end the arrogance of the racist regime and South African aggression. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has just issued a communique in this connection:

Considering South African threats, which press hard on the Republic of Angola and by which the racist Pretoria regime wants to destablize this independent and sovereign state;

Considering that South African aggressions remain with impunity and that Pretoria enjoys the support of some Western countries which enables it to increase its military budget [words indistinct];

Mauritania strongly condemns these acts of aggression which constitute a challenge to the whole of Africa and, as a result, calls on all southern African countries to remain vigilant and help the People's Republic of Angola in the trying moment it is facing.

Signed: The president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ATTACKS LIBYAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

JN151909 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1753 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Aug (SUNA)--President Numayri has stressed that Sudan's principled stand on foreign intervention has been evident in our condemnation and rejection of the Libyan presence in Chad, which is a violation of all the principles and ideals we follow in our work. This presence is a threat to Africa's security and stability. His excellency explained that Sudan was the first to highlight the grave situation in Chad. He went on to say that the Libyan presence in Chad is but the window through which communist domination infiltrates to all parts of the continent. President Numayri added that, some time after our warning, the incidents in Gambia came as a solid confirmation of the validity of our opinion. After the sedition in Gambia, the conspiring agent appeared in Liberia. Numayri said this when he received the credentials of (Haj Idris Mohammad) as Nigeria's ambassador to Sudan.

President Numayri stressed that foreign intervention is by necessity a shadow of the superpowers, if not a blatant action on their part. He said that a presence representing these powers in any part of the world invites an opposing presence. This creates an atmosphere in which the flags of peace, security and stability fall.

President Numayri said that Africa's strength lies in its unity and in preserving the principles of our African organization. He added that urgent African issues dictate a unity of ranks and stands in shunning blocs and axes and all that saps the capabilities of the African people. He explained that we still have bleeding African wounds in Namibia, refugee issues and economic and social backwardness.

President Numayri stressed that Sudan is earnestly trying to replace fighting with dialogue among the sons of Africa in order to reach solutions accepted by all parties. He stressed that only the Africans are able to solve their problems.

President Numayri praised the relations between Sudan and Nigeria pointing to the historical and cultural ties between them. He said that Sudan regards its relations with Nigeria as relations of great importance. He requested the Nigerian ambassador to convey his greetings to the Nigerian President Shehu Shagari and to the Nigerian people.

(Haj Idris Mohammad), the Nigerian ambassador, delivered a speech before presenting his credentials, praising bilateral relations. He stressed that these relations will not be influenced by political events or world problems. He praised joint Sudanese-Nigerian efforts during the past few months to establish a cease-fire in order to reconcile fighting parties in Africa. He also praised Sudanese efforts to achieve development and hand over authority to the people by applying regional rule.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE CLAIMS BATTLE VICTORIES

NC151630 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Algiers, 15 Aug (AFP)--Saharan nationalists killed 135 Moroccan troops and wounded 200 others in a 12-hour battle at Lemseyed (M'sied) near the border between Morocco and the Western Sahara on Tuesday, the self-proclaimed Saharan state said here today.

The Polisario Front, which is fighting Moroccan control of the Western Sahara, "completely neutralised" the enemy's forces in the battle, allowing its guerillas to occupy advanced Moroccan positions, a communique issued by the Saharan Information Ministry said. The garrison is apparently inside uncontested Moroccan territory.

The Saharans also destroyed a Stalin-organ, three 105-mm cannon, two 85-mm cannon, four 120-mm mortars, five 81-mm mortars, a double-barrelled 23-mm battery and eight machineguns of various calibres in the engagement, the communique said. In addition, they seized 25 assault rifles and "a large quantity of ammunition of various calibre as well as numerous important documents," it said.

A Saharan unity also bombarded Moroccan positions at Sabti inside Western Sahara with "heavy weapons" the same day, the communique said.

(A Moroccan communique issued in Rabat on Wednesday said 150 members of the Polisario Front were killed or wounded after its forces attacked a Moroccan garrison at M'sied. According to the Moroccan version, the Rabat regime's losses were 12 dead and 54 wounded. It said the Saharans fled leaving 30 vehicles as well as their dead and wounded after a battle lasting more than four hours. The battle is the most important clash in the war in the Western Sahara for several weeks. Polisario's last attack was on the same garrison on June 20 and 21. That attack came on the eve of the Organisation of African Unity summit in Nairobi at which the Moroccan King Hassan II agreed to a ceasefire and a referendum of Sahran people to decide their future.)

ETHIOPIA

CHAIRMAN MENGISTU SENDS CONDOLENCES TO SFRY

EA152334 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam today condoled with the death of Comrade Stevan Doronjski, member of the Presidency of the SFRY and of the Presidency of the Committee of the LCY. On behalf of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, the people and Government of Ethiopia and on his own behalf, Comrade Chairman Mengistu paid tribute to the person and achievements of Comrade Doronjski and conveyed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of Yugoslavia, as well as to the bereaved family.

SOMALIA

OFFICIALS, U.S. DELEGATION BEGIN TALKS 16 AUG

EA161626 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Official talks opened this morning at People's Hall in Mogadishu between the U.S. congressional delegation and officials from the National Assembly's Standing Committee and the government. The talks centered on political and economic relations between the two countries, the problems in the Horn of Africa and other issues of bilateral relations. The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and the two sides expressed identical views on most of the issues discussed.

Somalia was represented at the talks by Chairman of the Political Committee of the National Assembly Challe 'Abd al-Qasim Salad Hasan (?representing) the minister of state planning, Challe Ahmed Habib Ahmed; Chairman of the Economic Committee of the National Assembly Challe Ahmed Mohammed Dualeh; Minister of Education Challe Aden Mohamed Ali; Deputy Defense Minister Challe Brig Gen Umar Haji Mohammed; Deputy Foreign Minister Challe Mahmud Yusuf; Chairman of the Refugee Agency Challe Abdi Mohamed Taraq; and other officials.

The U.S. side was representing by the leader of the delegation who is also the chairman of the foreign relations subcommittee for Africa, Mr Howard Wolpe, and his delegation.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACK

EA151246 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] A report received from the Somali Ministry of Defense today states that two Abyssinian aircraft attacked (Dufey) village in (Dogob) district at 0400 yesterday. The two MiG-23 aircraft bombed and fired rockets at the village where (words indistinct] civilians and [words indistinct]. The attacking aircraft were bravely confronted by the Somali air defense forces.

The report continues: The Abyssinian air raid is a manifestation of the Abyssinian policy of aggression in consultation with those of their unholy alliance against the people of Somalia.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO LIFTS STATE OF EMERGENCY, MAINTAINS ALERT

AB170751 Paris AFP in English 0348 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Bangui, 16 Aug (AFP)--President David Dacko today lifted the state of emergency imposed in the Central African Republic last month but maintained the military on a state of alert, Bangui radio reported. Mr Dacko, who also holds the defence portfolio, asked the armed forces to continue the required mission of surveillance and security, the radio said.

Mr Dacko gave the army all powers to maintain order in order to disperse by force any troop deployment on Central African Republic territory.

Today's move follows the lifting on August 10 of a ban on the opposition Ubangian Patriotic Front-Workers Party (FPO-PT) led by Professor Abel Goumba and the suspension of the Central African People's Liberation Movement of former Premier Ange Patasse.

It also follows the release on Friday of six members of Mr Patasse's movement who had been arrested in a swoop on about 30 opponents of the regime. The ban on Mr Iddi Lala's Central African National Liberation Movement, which was imposed at the same time as the restrictions on the other parties, remains in force.

SIX OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS RELEASED IN BANGUI

AB151220 Paris AFP in French 1052 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Bangui, 15 Aug (AFP)--Six militants from Prof Abel Goumba's Ubangian Patriotic Front-Labor Party (FPO-PT) in the CAR have been released, it was learned in Bangui Saturday morning. Professor Goumba is currently in France. They are: Abel Zoungoula, Francois Molondoko, Cyriaque Bomba, Abel Magbotiade, Michel Ngouandjia and Mercel Yondo. They were arrested immediately after the attempted coup which took place on the night of 14 July in the Le Club movie theater in Bangui, in which three people including a Frenchman died and 27 others were wounded. The CAR security forces arrested about 30 persons, including members of the FPO-PT and Dr Iddi Lala's Central African National Liberation Movement (MCLN), which claimed responsibility for the attempted coup from Lagos.

On 10 August, President David Dacko decided to lift the ban imposed on the FPO-PT and the suspension of Ange Patasse's Central African People's Liberation Movement. But according to CAR security forces, information gathered in preliminary investigations clearly established the complicity of some elements of these parties, although it is said these elements acted on their own initiative.

As for Dr Iddi Lala's MCLN, the decision to ban it has been maintained. Members of this party have been declared outlaws and are being prosecuted as such, Prime Minister Narcisse Bozanga indicated last week on Bangui radio. A special tribunal composed of 14 members--civilians and military--has been entrusted with trying all those who participated in the 14 July attempted coup. The trial, which will soon begin, will be open to the public and all rights to defense will be ensured, the CAR prime minister specified.

OPPOSITION PROPOSES 'JOINT GOVERNMENT PLAN'

AB141932 Paris AFP in French 1400 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Bangui, 14 Aug (AFP)--The four opposition parties in the CAR have called for the immediate resignation of the president of the republic, Mr David Dacko, in order to avoid the imminent danger of a civil war or a military coup d'etat. This was stated in Bangui on Wednesday by one of the officials of the opposition in the CAR in an interview with AFP.

The four parties are: The Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC) led by Mr Ange Patasse, the Independent Rally for Thought and Action (GIRA) led by Mr Francois Pehoua, the Republican Progress Party led by Mr Henri Maidu and the Ubangui People's Patriotic Front led by Mr Abel Goumba. These parties are to issue, before the end of August, a joint government plan which will be implemented immediately after the withdrawal of Mr Dacko.

Mr Dacko, in an address on Wednesday night to mark the 21st anniversary of the CAR's independence, however, rejected categorically such an eventuality and accused the opposition of using fascist and terrorist methods in order to impose its rule.

The joint government plan, the CAR opposition official also stated, will be implemented by a president of the republic and a government which would first be appointed by a provisional national political council. This council at first will be composed of the four opposition parties. The Central African Democratic Union (UDC) led by Mr Dacko and the Movement for Independent Democracy (MDI) led by Mr Francois Gueret will be invited to join, he added.

Each political party composing the provisional political council will have equal membership within the council, no matter the size of its membership among the CAR electorate. An agreement on the implementation of this joint government plan has been signed by the four opposition parties, Mr Pehoua, leader of the GIRA, stated in another interview with AFP.

The CAR opposition, however, refuses to explain how it intends to obtain the voluntary withdrawal of Mr Dacko, even if it excludes resorting to the use of force and street demonstrations. We will do everything to avoid bloodshed and we are against any military coup d'etat, Mr Pehoua also said.

GAMBIA

AUTHORITIES CLARIFY STATE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

AB141631 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Banjul, 14 Aug (AFP)--A former soldier who killed Gambia's army chief in October has been arrested during search operations here following the unsuccessful coup d'etat of July 30, an informed source said today.

Mustapha Danso, who was in jail after being condemned to death for the murder of Commander Emmanuel Mahoney, was released along with other prisoners by the rebels after the attempted coup and joined them according to the source.

The uprising, crushed by an armed intervention from neighbouring Senegal which surrounds Gambia on three sides, was backed by about three-quarters of the Field Force, Gambia's sole army unit.

Mr Danso's release by the rebels is seen in government circles here as proof that the coup attempt was linked to events in October, when Senegalese troops first intervened in response to a Gambian request to counter destabilisation.

Meanwhile, the authorities here have spelled out the provisions of a state of emergency declared after the coup attempt.

An 11 pm to 6 am curfew is in force, and possession or carrying of firearms is punishable by three to five years in jail. Anybody concealing a rebel would face five years jail or a heavy fine, a communique said.

The authorities also have the right to search homes and vehicles to recover looted goods, hidden arms or to arrest anyone suspected of having collaborated with the putchists, the communique said.

(In Dakar, Senegal, it was reported today that Gambian Foreign Minister Lamine Kiti Jabang has had a meeting with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to whom he gave a message from Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara.)

OPPOSITION LEADER TO BE TRIED; JAWARA SPEAKS

AB150944 Paris AFP in French 0705 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Banjul, 15 Aug (AFP)--Sherif Mustapha Diba, former vice president of the Republic of Gambia and leader of the parliamentary opposition, has been arrested following the abortive coup d'etat in Gambia, Justice Minister Lamine Saho announced Friday night.

Mr Diba, who was called for questioning last week and released 14 hours later, was arrested with Jibril Jagne, another deputy in his party--the National Convention Party [NCP]--which is being dismantled. They will both be tried for treason, the Gambian justice minister indicated.

Several top leaders of the NCP have been arrested with charges of participating in the abortive coup d'etat.

The Gambian president, Sr Dawda Jawara, stated Friday that the recent abortive coup was so badly coordinated that the coupmakers would never have been able to form a viable government.

President Jawara expressed views in his first speech to the Gambian parliament after the 30 July abortive coup d'etat.

The coupmakers not only encouraged looting in stores in Banjul, but they actually took part in it, the head of state added.

Damage done to Gambia on that occasion worsens the difficulties currently facing the country, the Gambian president again said, and called on Gambians to redouble their efforts in order to rebuild the country.

Finally, he assured tourists and tourist agents that Gambia was ready to receive them. He also thanked countries and international organizations for the emergency aid given to his country following the abortive coup d'etat.

GHANA

NIGERIA REGRETS DEATHS OF GHANAIANS IN NIGERIA

AB140908 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] A three-member Nigerian delegation led by Chief Patrick Gbolokor, minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs, has delivered a special message from President Shagari to President Limann at the Castle. Chief Gbolokor said the delegation has come to Ghana to express the condolences of President Shagari and the government and people of Nigeria on the recent death of five Ghanaians in Nigeria. Chief Bgolokor expressed the deepest regrets of the Nigerian Government over the incident and said he hoped the incident would not mar the long-standing cordial relations between Ghana and Nigeria. Discussions were later held behind closed doors.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI, CHADIAN MINISTER DISCUSS REFUGEE RETURN

AB141905 Lagos NAN in English 1750 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Lagos, 14 Aug (NAN)--The Chadian minister of interior, Mr Abdelka der Yassmi, said today in Lagos that the interim government of President Goukouni Oueddei had declared a general amnesty to enable Chadian refugees, including those in Nigeria, to return to Chad. The minister disclosed this while delivering a special message from President Oueddei to President Shehu Shagari at State House.

A statement from the State House said that President Oueddei had called for Nigeria's assistance to enable those refugees to return home.

According to the statement, President Shagari told the minister that he was happy that the situation in Chad was gradually getting better.

President Shagari pointed out that the general amnesty would create the right atmosphere for general reconcilation so that attention could be turned to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The statement said that President (?Shagari gave) the assurance that Nigeria has not only to assist those refugees who were willing to return, but would be prepared to help in process of reconcilation.

Mr Yassmi was accompanied by two presidential assistants, Mr Djibrine H. Greinky and Alhaji Adoum Yaro, and the Chadian charge d'affairs in Nigeria, Mr Abdelkerim Mahamat.

TIMES CRITICIZES REAGAN NEUTRON BOMB DECISION

AB141110 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The DAILY TIMES says the decision of President Ronald Reagan of the United States to include the neutron bomb in his country's arsenal is a threat to the human race. The paper believes that the motive of developing the bomb is to make the United States achieve arms equality with the Soviet Union. The TIMES recalls the destructive effects of similar weapons in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Three-Mile Island in United States, and says pressure should be brought on the American and Soviet Governments not to endanger mankind for their selfish ends.

SIERRA LEONE

LABOR CONGRESS CALLS GENERAL STRIKE 14 AUG

AB141910 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Freetown, Sierra Leone, 14 Aug (AFP)--Worker's leaders in Sierra Leone today hit back at a government ban on a protest march by calling a general strike until the authorities open negotiations to combat soaring prices and poor social conditions. The unlimited strike called by the country's labour congress follows a ban by President Siaka Stevens last night of a march the congress had planned for today to press its demands. Invoking the public order act, the president of the West African state said the march was not in any way calculated to promote the welfare of workers, but was, on the contrary, detrimental to general public safety and welfare.

Addressing a mass meeting in Freetown today, the secretary general of the Sierra Leone Labour Congress, James Kabia, called upon workers all over the country to withold their labour with immediate effect until further notice. The congress also called on workers to refrain from acts of violence and intimidation.

Shops, businesses and offices all responded strongly to the strike call by closing down. Traffic continued to flow smoothly in the capital but the streets were almost deserted.

The labour congress has called on the government to implement immediately eight proposals it has formulated. The proposals are:

1. Reduction in the exhorbitant and economically-unjustified price of rice.
2. Control of the price of other basic foods such as meat and fish, and also of the price of school textbooks.
3. Effective measures to reduce the high level of unemployment.
4. Rent subsidies and the construction of more low-cost housing all over the country.
5. Refurbishment of the country's hospitals and the provision of medical supplies such as drugs.
6. Reconstruction or repair of roads which it described as presently little better than death traps.
7. Effective control over transport costs in the provinces, and
8. An end to delays in the payment of workers wages and salaries.

Refusal To Resume Work

AB160759 Paris AFP in French 0713 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Freetown, 16 Aug (AFP)--In spite of the promise made by the government to supply rice in sufficient quantities and at strictly controlled prices, Sierra Leonean workers have refused to resume work as they have been requested by their labor union leaders and have threatened a general strike. After last Saturday's discussions with President Siaka Stevens and his ministers, the 28 member union delegation led by James Kabia only obtained a promise from the government on the price of rice while they had presented eight demands concerning improving of the economic situation and the unemployment problem. The special request on the list was the immediate reduction of the price of rice and other basic food items like meat and fish.

The workers strongly criticized their union leaders for their inability to obtain what they wanted and they affirmed that they would not resume work as long as the government did not find an acceptable solution to their problems. The workers were also very annoyed with the fact that their union leaders accepted government promises without consulting them and in a radio and television broadcast called on them to resume work.

James Kabia called for the strike on Friday following the ban on a demonstration which should have ended in front of Government House.

SOUTH AFRICA

DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWS 'MARXIST ONSLAUGHT'

LD141136 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] The South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, said a joint effort by the government, the industrial sector, the commercial sector, the security forces and the community as a whole is needed to counter the Marxist onslaught against South Africa. Speaking at Vanderbijlpark, about 70 km from Johannesburg, General Malan said the revolutionary threat against South Africa had now reached an extremely dangerous phase. Increasing attempts would be made to disrupt key industries and South Africa's sophisticated transport network. General Malan said South Africa's enemies have realized that its military power was a force to be reckoned with. South Africans had been enjoying the fruits of the country's economic growth and prosperity during the last few years. General Malan said the security forces had succeeded in proving their superiority beyond any doubt, and, with few casualties on their side, had managed to achieve truly remarkable successes in the war against SWAPO terrorists on the South-West Africa/Namibian border.

ZIMBABWE

EXPLOSIONS OCCUR AT MUNITIONS DEPOT 16 AUG

Salisbury Report

LD170900 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Salisbury--A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense said this evening that at approximately 1300 today a series of accidental explosions occurred at the ammunition subdepot at Inkomo barracks near Salisbury. These started as a result of an exploding gas cylinder which set fire to others stored nearby. Thereafter the fire spread to ammunition storage buildings. So far the number of casualties, if any, has not been ascertained. Full emergency measures have been taken. The public are asked not to go to the area if at all possible and are advised not to touch any items they may find within a considerable distance of Inkomo barracks.

AFP Report

PA161430 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Salisbury, 16 Aug (AFP)--A series of massive explosions blasted through a major munitions store in Zimbabwe some 25 miles (about 40 kms) west of here today, rocking the Zimbabwean capital. No details of damage or casualties were immediately available, but police here said that Salisbury had been denuded of ambulances which rushed to the scene of the explosions at the Nkomo barracks as the blasts continued.

The area around the barracks, which police said stored guns, ammunition and heavy artillery, much of it collected after the disarmament of the country's 40,000 former guerrillas, was sealed off.

Buildings in Salisbury were shaken by the continuing blast which were believed to have blown up underground bunkers, depots and railway cars.

There was immediate speculation that the explosions were South African sabotage attacks in retaliation for the government's support of the Africa National Congress (ANC), South African outlawed nationalist organisation.